



# Rockjumper Birding Tours

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Worldwide Birding Adventures

## Uganda Birds & Gorillas I Trip Report

*30<sup>th</sup> June to 17<sup>th</sup> July 2009*



**Trip Report Compiled by Tour Leader: Cuan Rush**

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## Tour Summary

With a checklist of over 1050 species, the equatorial country of Uganda is a birders paradise. From the Palm Savannas and Guinea woodland of Murchison Falls NP to the verdant rainforests of Bwindi Impenetrable Forest this destination offers those who venture here, an unbeatable birding experience! Our tour this year coincided with an unusually dry season, making the birding rather challenging. Despite these unfavourable conditions we managed to tally almost half the total species available in just 18 days. The scarce Ring-necked Francolin, iconic Shoebill, African Finfoot, Brown-chested Lapwing, the jewel-like Shining-blue Kingfisher, Red-faced Barbet, sought-after Rufous-sided Broadbill, stunning Green-breasted Pitta, Jameson's Wattle-eye, skulking Neumann's Warbler, the diminutive Tit-Hylia, Archer's Ground Robin and Regal Sunbird were but a few of the avian highlights during the trip. Clearly, no visit to Uganda is complete without a search for the great apes and this tour was no different. Our efforts yielded a splendid encounter with a family group of Mountain Gorillas at Bwindi and a few good sightings of human being's closest relative, the Chimpanzee, at the Royal Mile and Kibale Forest. Along with some stunning vistas and a nation of friendly people, our time spent here was a most memorable one.

Leaving Entebbe on the shores of Lake Victoria, we headed north into the countryside in search of our first Ugandan targets. En route we stopped at Luwero Swamp, an area of seasonally flooded grasslands and broad-leafed woodland. Birds were plentiful and without much adieu we notched up Palmnut Vulture, Western Banded Snake Eagle, Vinaceous Dove, Great Blue Turaco, Red-throated Bee-eater, Nubian Woodpecker, the gorgeous African Blue Flycatcher, our first Grey-capped Warbler, Purple Starling, Brown-backed Scrub Robin and African Golden Weaver. Further down the road at Kafu Ranches Grey Kestrel, the stunning White-crested Turaco, Blue-naped Mousebird, White-headed Barbet, flocks of quizzical Piapiac, the sought-after Yellow-bellied Hyliota and Golden-breasted Bunting were added to the list. In the late afternoon we arrived at our colonial-style hotel in Masindi for a two night stay.



The first rainforest experience of the trip was at the famous Royal Mile, part of the Budongo Forest Reserve which protects a large tract of forest. The canefields and scrubby areas, on our approach to the forest, held Marsh Tchagra, Whistling & Short-winged Cisticolas, elusive Red-winged Warbler, Compact Weaver, attractive Grey-headed Oliveback, Brown Twinspot, Black-bellied Firefinch and Cabanis's Bunting. As with all forest birding, patience and "neck-craning" is required. Our efforts were rewarded with a good number of specials that included Tambourine Dove, the secretive Blue Malkoha, African Emerald Cuckoo, a pair of Blue-throated Roller, Blue-breasted, African Dwarf, African Pygmy and Chocolate-backed Kingfishers, White-thighed Hornbill, Yellow-spotted Barbet, Chestnut Wattle-eye, Western Black-headed Oriole, Western Nicator, flocks of Spotted Greenbul, the furtive and localised Chestnut-capped Flycatcher, Black-capped Apalis, Rufous-crowned Eremomela, Red-tailed Rufous Thrush, stunning Eastern Forest Robin, Fraser's Forest Flycatcher and Red-headed Malimbe...a good haul for a day of forest birding.



Continuing on we headed for another sector of the Budongo Forest, namely Kaniyo Pabidi. Our time spent here produced most of our target species with the difficult-to-locate Rufous-sided Broadbill and the elusive and localised Puvel's Illadopsis taking the cake. Later on we dropped down into the Rift Valley and in doing so arrived in Murchison Falls National Park. The reserve is Uganda's largest national park but unfortunately the large herds of game suffered badly at the hands of poachers and soldiers during the 70's and 80's. However, one is still able to observe a variety of large mammals and we certainly proved this, with Leopard, African Elephant, bloats of Hippo, Giraffe, African Buffalo, Bushbuck, the beautiful Uganda Kob, Defassa Waterbuck and Kongoni all being seen. Another major highlight of this park is the thunderous Murchison Falls which easily awed us. As we watched the impressive Nile River funneled through a narrow gap in the Rift Valley Escarpment to become a frothing mass of turbulent, angry water! Birding in the park was also excellent and yielded many top specials. These included the shy Ring-necked Francolin, Grey Kestrel, Black-headed Lapwing, the elegant Rock Pratincole, Black-billed Wood Dove, Abyssinian Ground Hornbill, Brown-backed Woodpecker, the stupendous Pennant-winged Nightjar, Red-throated Bee-eater, Black-billed Barbet, Foxy Cisticola, Red-winged Grey Warbler, Brown Babbler and Chestnut-crowned Sparrow-Weaver. However, a visit to Murchison Falls is not complete without locating the main quarry, the bizarre Shoebill! After an unsuccessful cruise on the Nile and several hours searching the Papyrus Swamps along the banks we almost gave up hope...until literally at the eleventh hour a cry of "Shoebill" rang out. We had found the beast and enjoyed prolonged, close range views of the amazing bird...an experience not to be forgotten. Onward and back up the escarpment, we completed our circular route from the town of Masindi with an excursion to Busingiro Forest, the third tract of forest that makes up Budongo. Probably the least productive forest birding of the trip was had here, but even so, we found Chocolate-backed Kingfisher, Yellow-billed Barbet, Willcock's Honeyguide, Shrike-flycatcher, Olive-green Camaroptera and the secretive Toro Olive Greenbul.



Leaving Masindi we turned our attentions to Kibale Forest, famous for harbouring the greatest variety and concentration of primates in East Africa. *En route* we had several scheduled stops which added Heuglin's Francolin, European Honey Buzzard, good views of Red-headed Lovebird, Buff-throated Apalis, a pair of striking Snowy-crowned Robin-Chat, the gorgeous Papyrus Gonolek and Orange-tufted Sunbird. Nearing the Kibale National Park we spent some time at the forest along the park boundary, where we recorded Lowland Masked Apalis, Lühder's Bushshrike, a female Petit's Cuckooshrike and the vocal

Joyful Greenbul. Birding the main forest and Bigodi Swamp over the next day and a half produced White-spotted Flufftail, Black Bee-eater, Hairy-breasted, Yellow-billed Barbet and Grey-throated Barbets, Yellow-rumped Tinkerbird, Shining-blue Kingfisher, a magnificent sighting of Green-breasted Pitta, Red-bellied Paradise Flycatcher, Black-and-white Flycatcher, Yellow-whiskered and Honeyguide Greenbuls, noisy Brown Illadopsis, Narrow-tailed Starling, the mimicry master Red-capped Robin-Chat, Blue-throated Brown and Superb Sunbirds, White-breasted Nigrita and the stunning Red-headed

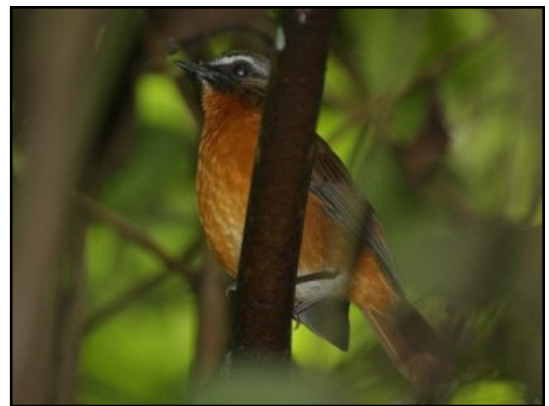


Bluebill. Of course the primates could not be ignored and we enjoyed great views of Chimpanzee, Central African Red and Guereza Colobus, Olive Baboon and Blue and Red-tailed Monkeys.



The next destination was the, nigh on 2000km<sup>2</sup>, Queen Elizabeth National Park, probably Uganda's most popular park. During our visit here we explored the Kasenyi area, the Kazinga Channel and the well-known Ishasha sector. Our efforts in the dry, dusty conditions yielded good numbers of new birds. These included Red-necked Spurfowl, Harlequin Quail, African Spoonbill, White-backed, White-headed and Lappet-faced Vultures, Peregrine Falcon, Black-bellied Bustard, Senegal Lapwing, Temminck's Courser, Collared Pratincole, Bare-faced Go-away-bird, Square-tailed Nightjar, Pearl-spotted Owlet,

White-throated and Olive Bee-eaters, Common Scimitarbill, Red-shouldered Cuckooshrike, Chubb's Cisticola, White-browed Robin-Chat, the busy Swamp Flycatcher, Slender-billed Weaver, Green-winged Pytilia and the gorgeous Black-chinned Quail-Finch. Our game drives in the park proved fruitful and we recorded Yellow-winged Bat, troops of Banded Mongoose, African Elephant, and large herds of African Buffalo, a fleeting Leopard, Uganda Kob, Topi and the monstrous Giant Forest Hog. After much searching and very near our departure from this bountiful area we finally found a pride of lions lazing along the limbs of a large Fig Tree.



Our journey then led us to Bwindi Impenetrable Forest in the far west of this equatorial wonderland. Unfortunately, contrary to its name, the forest is not impenetrable and has suffered massive logging and slash-and-burn damages in the past. This is blatantly obvious along the borders of the forest where an unmistakable contrast between agricultural land and forest edge is evident. However, despite these atrocities, Bwindi still offers some of the most superb montane forest birding in Africa! Our bases at Buhoma & Ruhija were the ideal exploration points for forays into the forest to search for the many specials and Albertine Rift endemics of the park. The forest trails around Buhoma were alive with birds and our tally continued to mount. Amongst these



were African Olive Pigeon, Black-billed and Ross's Turaco, the vociferous White-headed Wood Hoopoes, Green-backed, Tullberg's and Elliot's Woodpeckers, Bocage's and Lühder's Bushshrikes, African Broadbill, Pink-footed Puffback, Petit's Cuckooshrike, Mackinnon's Shrike, Velvet-mantled Drongo, numerous greenbuls including Yellow-throated Leaflove and Kakamega Greenbul, the skulking Black-faced Rufous Warbler, Red-faced Woodland Warbler, unbelievably tricky Neumann's Warbler, Mountain Illadopsis, the attractive Red-throated Alethe, Equatorial Akalat, White-bellied and Grey-winged Robin-Chats, Yellow-eyed Black Flycatcher, the aberrant

Grey-headed Sunbird and Black-billed Weaver. In addition to the species mentioned previously, a new suite of birds were found in the higher altitude forest and swamps of Ruhija. Olive Long-tailed Cuckoo,



Cinnamon-chested Bee-eater, Dwarf Honeyguide, Olive Woodpecker, Ruwenzori Batis, the stunning Doherty's Bushshrike, Grey Cuckooshrike, Dusky and Stripe-breasted Tits, Black-faced Prinia, Grauer's Warbler, both Ruwenzori and Mountain Masked Apalises, Ruwenzori Hill Babbler, White-starred Robin, Archer's Ground Robin, Blue-headed, Purple-breasted and stunning Regal Sunbirds, Strange Weaver and the elusive Dusky Twinspot were all seen. This very impressive haul included fifteen species of Albertine Rift endemics, a high percentage of the ARE's that were available on our route! Most of our group was also fortunate to partake in the Gorilla trekking at Bwindi. This entailed an early start and some very difficult and strenuous hiking in the forest but there can be no doubt that it was all very worthwhile. After several hours of searching a family group of Mountain Gorilla was located and the following hour was spent absorbing the intimate behaviours of these gentle giants...an once-in-a-lifetime experience!



From Bwindi we journeyed eastwards to Lake Mburo National Park which situated in southern Uganda and covers an area of 260km<sup>2</sup>. It protects open savanna and well developed Acacia woodland and of course its namesake, Lake Mburo (plus several other lakes). With the change in habitat you naturally find different species and we encountered Common Zebra and Impala on the mammal front and a host of new birds (some of which reach the northernmost limit of their range here). Amongst these were Coqui Francolin, Black-crowned Night and Striated Herons, Hooded and Rüppel's Vultures, Black-chested Snake Eagle, African Marsh Harrier, the magnificent African Finfoot (at least 7 birds), the nomadic Brown-chested Lapwing, Greater Painted Snipe, Emerald-spotted Wood Dove, Brown-necked Parrot, Swamp Nightjar, Giant Kingfisher, the range-restricted Red-faced Barbet, White-winged Black Tit, Grey Penduline Tit, Long-tailed Cisticola, Green-capped Eremomela, Southern Black Flycatcher, Marico and Purple-banded Sunbirds and Little and Red-headed Weavers.



Mabira Forest not far from the town of Jinja was our penultimate port-of-call of the trip. Several species found in Mabira Forest don't occur on the rest of the route and we therefore had the opportunity to close the deal on the last forest birding for the trip. At times frustrating with almost constant neck braking views of birds and cyclists and the occasional motorbike rushing past, we were not deterred and this paid off in the end. Our tally mounted with the addition of African Pied Hornbill, Jameson's Wattle-eye, a pair of Purple-throated Cuckooshrike, Plain Greenbul, the

diminutive Tit-Hylia (actively nest-building), Yellow-browed Camaroptera, both Yellow and Grey Longbills, Pale-breasted Illadopsis, the songster Blue-shouldered Robin-Chat and a small flock of Weyn's Weaver (including a full plumaged male). Heading back to Entebbe we made one last birding stop at the Entebbe Wildlife Centre near the botanical gardens. This site on the shores of Lake Victoria yielded 3 more species in the form of Gull-billed Tern and both Orange and Northern Brown-throated Weavers. Shortly after locating these birds we headed to the hotel nearby to freshen up before our international flights home.



## Annotated List of Birds recorded

Nomenclature and taxonomy follows the IOC List of Please cite: Gill, F. and M. Wright. 2006. Birds of the World: Recommended English Names. Princeton NJ: Princeton University Press.

(ARE) indicates an Albertine Rift endemic species

QENP = Queen Elizabeth National Park

NP = National Park

### Guineafowl Numididae

#### **Helmeted Guineafowl**

*Numida meleagris*

This widespread & common species was seen at woodland/savannah localities.

#### **Crested Guineafowl**

*Guttera pucherani*

We had excellent views of this attractive species at Kaniyo Pabidi and Kibale Forests.

### Pheasants, Fowl and Allies Phasianidae

#### **Nahan's Francolin**

*Ptilopachus nahani*

Despite many attempts to locate this endangered bird, we only heard the bird once at the Royal Mile.

NOTE: Clements places this species in a different genus to IOC, namely: *Francolinus*.

#### **Coqui Francolin**

*Peliperdix coqui*

A pair of these attractive birds was found in the woodland of Lake Mburo NP.

NOTE: Clements places this species in a different genus to IOC, namely: *Francolinus*.

#### **Ring-necked Francolin**

*Scleroptila streptophora*

This elusive bird was seen well by some participants in Murchison Falls NP.

NOTE: Clements places this species in a different genus to IOC, namely: *Francolinus*.

#### **Crested Francolin**

*Dendroperdix sephaena*

We recorded this bushveld francolin in Murchison Falls and Lake Mburo NP's.

NOTE: Clements places this species in a different genus to IOC, namely: *Francolinus*.

#### **Heuglin's Francolin**

*Pternistis icterorhynchus*

First encountered in Murchison Falls NP, it was then seen well southwest of Masindi.

NOTE: Clements places this species in a different genus to IOC, namely: *Francolinus*.

#### **Red-necked Spurfowl (Francolin)**

*Pternistis afer*

A very vocal bushveld species, it was observed in QENP and Lake Mburo NP.

NOTE: Clements places this species in a different genus to IOC, namely: *Francolinus*.

#### **Harlequin Quail**

*Coturnix delegorguei*

This bird was seen briefly in flight by some participants in the grasslands of QENP.

### Ducks, Geese and Swans Anatidae

#### **White-faced Whistling Duck**

*Dendrocygna viduata*

We recorded this species during our boat cruise on the Victoria Nile in Murchison Falls NP.

#### **Knob-billed (Comb) Duck**

*Sarkidiornis melanotos*

As per the aforementioned species, we found flocks of this bird on the banks of the Victoria Nile.

#### **Egyptian Goose**

*Alopochen aegyptiacus*

This widespread & common bird was seen at Murchison Falls NP, QENP and Lake Mburo NP.

#### **Hottentot Teal**

*Anas hottentota*

Approximately 10 of these diminutive teals were found at a wetland site near Lake Mburo NP.

### Grebes Podicipedidae

#### **Little Grebe**

*Tachybaptus ruficollis*



1 bird was found at a wetland near Lake Mburo NP.

### Flamingos Phoenicopteridae

#### **Lesser Flamingo**

*Phoenicopus minor*

A small flock of these delicate birds were scoped on the salt flats of a crater lake in QENP.

### Storks Ciconiidae

#### **Yellow-billed Stork**

*Mycteria ibis*

Small numbers of these pretty birds were seen on the Victoria Nile, Kazinga Channel and Lake Mburo.

#### **African Openbill**

*Anastomus lamelligerus*

A widespread and common species in Uganda, it was seen at most wetlands during the trip.

#### **Woolly-necked Stork**

*Ciconia abdimii*

This bird was spotted in fields near Buhoma and at a roadside wetland near the Equator.

#### **Saddle-billed Stork**

*Ephippiorhynchus senegalensis*

This gorgeous stork was seen on the Nile in Murchison Falls NP and on the Kazinga Channel, QENP.

#### **Marabou Stork**

*Leptoptilos crumeniferus*

It was recorded regularly during the tour, with vast quantities of birds in urban areas & settlements.

### Ibises & Spoonbills Threskiornithidae

#### **[African] Sacred Ibis**

*Threskiornis aethiopicus*

The Victoria Nile, Kazinga Channel and a wetland near Kabale yielded sightings of this species.

#### **Hadada Ibis**

*Bostrychia hagedash*

By far the most common ibis of the trip, it was seen at most forested/well-wooded sites.

#### **Glossy Ibis**

*Plegadis falcinellus*

1 bird was found at a wetland near Lake Mburo NP.

#### **African Spoonbill**

*Platalea alba*

2 birds were seen on our boat cruise on the Kazinga Channel and 1 as we crossed the Nile near Jinja.

### Hérons & Bitterns Ardeidae

#### **Little Bittern**

*Ixobrychus minutus*

2 birds were spotted in-flight during our Victoria Nile boat cruise.

#### **Black-crowned Night Heron**

*Nycticorax nycticorax*

Our only sighting of this species was during our Lake Mburo boat cruise.

#### **Striated Heron**

*Butorides striata*

8 were recorded on Lake Mburo and a couple more on the Nile near Jinja.

*NOTE: A polytypic and cosmopolitan superspecies with over 30 recognized forms. The IOC recognizes three full species, the North American Green Heron B. virescens, Galapagos Heron B. sundevalli and the most widespread nominate form that we recorded in Uganda.*

#### **Squacco Heron**

*Ardeola ralloides*

It was seen on the Victoria Nile, Kazinga Channel and Lake Mburo.

#### **[Western] Cattle Egret**

*Bubulcus ibis*

The 3 woodland/savannah NP's all produced sightings of this widespread bird.

*NOTE: This group is split into 2 species by the IOC, the nominate Western Cattle Egret B. ibis and the Asian/Australasian Eastern Cattle Egret E. coromanda. This split is as yet not recognised by Clements.*

#### **Grey Heron**

*Ardea cinerea*

The wetlands, lakes and rivers of Murchison, QENP and Lake Mburo produced views of this species.

#### **Black-headed Heron**

*Ardea melanocephala*

It was recorded regularly during the tour at most suitable grassland/savannah sites.



**Goliath Heron***Ardea goliath*

The largest heron in the world, it was found in good numbers on the Victoria Nile and again on the Kazinga Channel.

**Purple Heron***Ardea purpurea*

First observed in the reed beds along the Victoria Nile in Murchison Falls NP, it was then seen in flight south-west of Masindi.

*NOTE: The Cape Verde Islands A. p. bournei is sometimes split off as Cape Verde Purple Heron or Bourne's Heron.*

**[Western] Great (White) Egret***Ardea alba*

Small numbers of this elegant species were encountered in Murchison Falls NP, QENP & Lake Mburo.

*NOTE: IOC now recognises Great Egret as 2 separate species, namely Western Great Egret A. alba and Eastern Great Egret as A. modesta. This split is as yet not recognised by Clements.*

**Intermediate (Yellow-billed) Egret***Egretta intermedia*

The only record for this bird was during our boat cruise on the Kazinga Channel, QENP.

**Little Egret***Egretta garzetta*

The shores of Lake Victoria and the Victoria Nile produced sightings of this bird.

*NOTE: Clements lumps Little and Madagascar's Dimorphic Egret E. dimorpha into a single species. This treatment is not widely accepted.*

**Hamerkop Scopidae****Hamerkop***Scopus umbretta*

Belonging to a monotypic family, it was regularly seen at wetlands/rivers/lakes throughout Uganda.

**Shoebill Balaenicipitidae****Shoebill***Balaeniceps rex*

Probably the most sought-after species in Uganda (and some may say the world!), it remained elusive during our boat cruise on the Victoria despite some serious searching. However, when exploring the north bank of the Nile we eventually found it and were treated to amazing, extended views of an incredible bird!

**Pelicans Pelecanidae****Great White Pelican***Pelecanus onocrotalus*

1 bird was seen along the Kazinga Channel and 3 more at a wetland not far from Lake Mburo NP.

**Pink-backed Pelican***Pelecanus rufescens*

First recorded in a small nesting colony near Luwero Swamp, it was later seen in good numbers on the Kazinga Channel and an individual spotted at a wetland not far from Lake Mburo NP.

**Cormorants Phalacrocoracidae****Reed (Long-tailed) Cormorant***Phalacrocorax africanus*

It was seen on the shores of Lake Victoria near Entebbe and along the banks of the Kazinga Channel.

*NOTE: The Clements common name for this species is Long-tailed Cormorant.*

**White-breasted Cormorant***Phalacrocorax lucidus*

Our best views were of a large flock on the banks of the Kazinga Channel in QENP.

**Anhingas, Darters Anhangidae****[African] Darter***Anhinga rufa*

We recorded this attractive bird along the Victoria Nile in Murchison Falls NP.

*NOTE: The IOC splits Darter A. melanogaster into 3 separate species, namely African Darter A. rufa, Oriental Darter A. melanogaster and Australasian Darter A. novaehollandiae. Clements does not yet recognise these splits.*



## Kites Hawks & Eagles Accipitridae

**African Cuckoo-Hawk***Aviceda cuculoides*

This raptor was seen in-flight over the forest at Ruhija.

**European Honey Buzzard***Pernis apivorus*

This Palearctic migrant was spotted in-flight during our lunch stop en route to Kibale NP. This record represents an overwintering individual.

**Black-winged (-shouldered) Kite***Elanus caeruleus*

Scattered sightings were had of this bird along the roadside during the tour.

NOTE: The Clements common name for this species is Black-shouldered Kite.

**Black Kite***Milvus migrans*

Fairly common in most urban areas, all birds seen were of the resident Yellow-billed form.

NOTE: Many authorities treat the resident African subspecies of this raptor as a separate species, Yellow-billed Kite M. parasitus, bizarrely however IOC does not accept this split.

**African Fish Eagle***Haliaeetus vocifer*

An elegant raptor, it was observed in Murchison Falls NP, QENP and in peak numbers on Lake Mburo.

**Palm-nut Vulture***Gypohierax angolensis*

Small number recorded at scattered sites, with our best views along the Kazinga Channel in QENP.

**Hooded Vulture***Necrosyrtes monachus*

The skies over Kampala and Lugazi yielded sightings of this small vulture.

**(African) White-backed Vulture***Gyps africanus*

The savannah and woodland of Queen Elizabeth and Lake Mburo NP's produced this species.

**Rüppell's Vulture**

2 of these attractive (by vulture standards) were found during our stay in Lake Mburo NP.

**White-headed Vulture***Trigonoceps occipitalis*

We found only 1 bird in the Ishasha section of QENP during the tour.

**Lappet-faced Vulture***Torgos tracheliotus*

This species, the biggest Afro-tropical vulture, was seen in QENP and Lake Mburo NP.

**Black-chested (-breasted) Snake Eagle***Circaetus pectoralis*

Uncommon in Uganda, we managed only one sighting of this striking raptor near Lake Mburo NP.

NOTE: The Clements common name for this species is Black-breasted Snake-Eagle.

**Brown Snake Eagle***Circaetus cinereus*

The 3 savanna/woodland NP's offered us views of this species.

**[Western] Banded Snake Eagle***Circaetus cinerascens*

Several birds were seen in the moist woodland en route to Masindi and in Murchison Falls NP.

NOTE: The Clements common name for this species is Banded Snake-Eagle.

**Bateleur***Terathopius ecaudatus*

This beautiful eagle was observed in Murchison Falls NP's, QENP and Lake Mburo NP.

**African Marsh Harrier***Circus aeruginosus*

It was seen in flight over Lake Mburo and again from the shores of Lake Victoria at Entebbe.

**African Harrier-Hawk (Gymnogone)***Polyboroides typus*

This attractive raptor was recorded at regular intervals in most habitats.

**Dark Chanting Goshawk***Melierax metabates*

The moist woodland of Kafu Ranches and Murchison Falls NP provided sightings of this species.

**African Goshawk***Accipiter tachiro*

This forest accipiter was sighted at Kibale Forest and Bwindi NP.

NOTE: The West African forms are sometimes separated as Red-chested Goshawk *A. toussenelii*. IOC and Clements accepts this controversial split.

**Shikra (Little Banded Goshawk)***Accipiter badius*

Scattered sightings were had of this active little raptor on the trip, usually in flight.

*NOTE: We recorded the Northern Shikra A. b. sphenurus which some authorities consider distinct from the southern African Southern Shikra A. b. polyzonoides. These forms may also be split from the Asian nominate A. b. badius and other Asian forms. These splits are not widely recognised.*

**Black Sparrowhawk (Goshawk)**

*Accipiter melanoleucus*

This powerful accipiter was seen successfully hunting a young chicken at Kaniyo Pabidi and later at Ruhija.

*NOTE: The Clements common name for this species is Black Goshawk.*

**Lizard Buzzard**

*Kaupifalco monogrammicus*

A distinctive raptor, it was seen at various sites, even perched on telephone poles within urban areas.

**Mountain Buzzard**

*Buteo oreophilus*

This high altitude forest bird was seen several times at Ruhija, including a sighting at an active nest.

**Augur Buzzard**

*Buteo augur*

Our time spent in the highland areas of Bwindi NP in south-west of Uganda gave us views of this bird.

**Tawny Eagle**

*Aquila rapax*

The only large, brown eagle in the region during winter, it was seen en route to Masindi, in Murchison and Lake Mburo NP's.

**Cassin's Hawk-Eagle**

*Aquila africana*

We had good views of this forest raptor circling repeatedly near Bwindi NP.

**Wahlberg's Eagle**

*Aquila wahlbergi*

This bird was spotted in Murchison Falls NP and QENP.

**Martial Eagle**

*Polemaetus bellicosus*

One of the most regal raptors, we had several sightings including good flight and perch views in Lake Mburo NP.

**Long-crested Eagle**

*Lophaetus occipitalis*

By far the most commonly recorded raptor of the tour, it was observed on most days.

**Crowned Eagle**

*Stephanoaetus coronatus*

First seen high-up in-flight over Primate Lodge, it was later recorded much lower down over Mabira Forest.

*NOTE: The Clements common name for this species is Crowned Hawk-Eagle.*

**Falcons Falconidae**

**Common (Eurasian) Kestrel**

*Falco tinnunculus*

Only recorded twice during the trip, first en route to Masindi and then in the Bugungu GR.

*NOTE: IOC and Clements have not split the distinctive Rock Kestrel F. t. rupicolis of Southern Africa from the nominate Common Kestrel which we observed.*

**Grey Kestrel**

*Falco ardosiaceus*

1 was found in the Palm savannah of Kafu Ranches and another in Murchison Falls NP.

**African Hobby**

*Falco cuvierii*

1 bird was seen in the early morning over Entebbe on day 1.

**Lanner Falcon**

*Falco biarmicus*

Our best sighting of this falcon was en route to Ruhija where we observed a bird dust-bathing on a dirt track.

**Peregrine Falcon**

*Falco peregrinus*

We recorded this solidly-built raptor on consecutive mornings at breakfast in QENP.

**Bustards Otidae**

**Denham's Bustard**

*Neotis denhami*



We had good views of 1 bird from our boat, in a short grass area on the North Bank in Murchison Falls NP.

**Black-bellied Bustard***Lissotis melanogaster*

A single male bird was seen by some participants in the tall grasslands of QENP.

**Flufftails Sarothruridae****White-spotted Flufftail***Sarothrura pulchra*

Bigodi Swamp produced our only sighting of this secretive bird despite hearing it at other sites.

**Finfoots Heliornithidae****African Finfoot***Podica senegalensis*

During our boat cruise on Lake Mburo, we indulged in multiple sightings of at least 7 different birds (juveniles, and both male & females) with the highlight being a male perched on a log out of the water!

**Rails, Crakes & Coots Rallidae****African Crake***Crex egregia*

A bird was seen very well (completely out in the open: unrallid-like) on a dirt track in QENP.

NOTE: Clements places this species in a different genus to IOC, namely *Crecopsis*.

**Black Crake***Amaurornis flavirostra*

Several of these oddly-coloured birds were found at wetland sites during the tour.

**African Swamphen (Purple Gallinule)***Porphyrio madagascariensis*

This species was recorded in the reed beds of the Victoria Nile in Murchison Falls NP.

**Common Moorhen***Gallinula chloropus*

A handful of these common birds were seen at a wetland near Lake Mburo NP.

**Red-knobbed Coot***Fulica cristata*

1 bird was scoped at the same wetland as the above species.

**Cranes Gruidae****Grey Crowned Crane***Balearica regulorum*

Uganda's national bird, it was seen throughout the tour with peak numbers of 50+ near Kabale.

**Thick-knees Burhinidae****Senegal Thick-knee (Dikkop)***Burhinus senegalensis*

A few birds were seen on the Victoria Nile in Murchison Falls NP.

**Water Thick-knee (Dikkop)***Burhinus vermiculatus*

Boat cruises on the Victoria Nile, Kazinga Channel and Lake Mburo produced sightings of this species.

**Stilts & Avocets Recurvirostridae****Black-winged Stilt***Himantopus himantopus*

This wader was only found along the banks of the Kazinga Channel in QENP.

**Plovers & Lapwings Charadriidae****Long-toed Lapwing***Vanellus crassirostris*

This species was recorded at Murchison Falls NP, Lake Mburo and a wetland nearby the park.

**Spur-winged Lapwing (Plover)***Vanellus spinosus*

Murchison Falls, QENP and the shores of Lake Victoria all yielded sightings of this striking bird.

NOTE: The Clements common name for this species is *Spur-winged Plover*.



**Black-headed Lapwing***Vanellus tectus*

A localised bird in Uganda, we observed this handsome species on the North Bank of the Nile in Murchison.

**Senegal Lapwing (Lesser Black-winged Plover)***Vanellus lugubris*

Good numbers of these lapwings were seen in burnt grasslands of QENP and Lake Mburo NP.

**Crowned Lapwing***Vanellus coronatus*

A handful of these birds were seen in a disturbed grassland area of QENP.

**[African] Wattled Lapwing***Vanellus senegallus*

An attractively-marked bird, it was seen at various sites with peak numbers of 20+ in Lake Mburo NP.

**Brown-chested Lapwing***Vanellus superciliosus*

6 of these sought-after Intra-African migrants (an east-west migrant) were found in a patch of burnt grassland near Lake Mburo NP.

**Grey (Black-bellied) Plover***Pluvialis squatarola*

A single bird, in non-breeding plumage, was recorded during our boat cruise on the Kazinga Channel in QENP.

**Kittlitz's Plover***Charadrius pecuarius*

Good numbers were seen during our boat cruise on the Kazinga Channel in QENP.

**Three-banded Plover***Charadrius tricollaris*

1 bird was seen along the bank of the Kazinga Channel and 2 more in Lake Mburo NP.

**Painted Snipes Rostratulidae****Greater Painted Snipe***Rostratula benghalensis*

We had good scope views of a male bird at a wetland not far from Lake Mburo NP.

**Jacanas Jacanidae****African Jacana***Actophilornis africanus*

This widespread wader was frequently recorded at wetland/river sites throughout the tour.

**Sandpipers & Allies Scolopacidae****Common Greenshank***Tringa nebularia*

2 birds were spotted at a wetland near Lake Mburo NP.

**Common Sandpiper***Actitis hypoleucos*

Our first sighting was on the Kazinga Channel and later at a wetland near Lake Mburo NP.

**Courasers & Pratincoles Glareolidae****Temminck's Courser***Cursorius temminckii*

This attractive & delicate courser was observed in a patch of burnt grassland in QENP.

**Collared (Red-winged) Pratincole***Glareola pratincola*

A small waterhole in the Kasenyi area of QENP produced a sighting of this species.

**Rock Pratincole***Glareola nuchalis*

From the viewpoint above Murchison Falls we watched several of these pretty birds.

**Gulls, Terns & Skimmers Laridae****African Skimmer***Rynchops flavirostris*

Possessing incredibly long and elegant wings, we saw this beauty on the Kazinga Channel.

**Grey-headed Gull***Larus cirrocephalus*

A few birds were spotted on the banks of the Kazinga Channel during a boat cruise.



**Gull-billed Tern***Sterna nilotica*

Our only sighting of this bird was on the last afternoon from the shores of Lake Victoria at Entebbe.

**Pigeons and Doves Columbidae****Common Pigeon (Rock Dove)***Columba livia*

Very few of these birds were seen in urban environments and settlements.

**Speckled Pigeon***Columba guinea*

Small numbers were recorded in Kampala and in a few other towns.

**Afep Pigeon***Columba unicincta*

This forest pigeon was heard on our chimp trek in the Kibale Forest.

**African Olive (Rameron) Pigeon***Columba arquatrix*

This bird was seen daily in the montane forests of Ruhija, Bwindi Impenetrable NP.

**Western Bronze-naped Pigeon***Columba iriditorques*

Unfortunately, we only heard this species during our time spent at Buhoma, Bwindi Impenetrable NP.

**(African) Mourning [Collared] Dove***Streptopelia decipiens*

This savanna species was seen in Murchison Falls NP and QENP.

**Red-eyed Dove***Streptopelia semitorquata*

The most regularly recorded dove species during the tour.

**Ring-necked (Cape Turtle) Dove***Streptopelia capicola*

This common and widespread species was seen en route to Masindi, at QENP and in Lake Mburo NP.

**Vinaceous Dove***Streptopelia vinacea*

It was first seen at Luwero Swamp and later in the Bugungu Game Reserve.

**Laughing Dove***Streptopelia senegalensis*

Scattered sightings were had of this dove with good numbers in QENP.

**Emerald-spotted Wood Dove***Turtur chalcospilos*

This species is restricted to the south and east of Uganda and we found it in Lake Mburo NP.

**Black-billed Wood Dove***Turtur abyssinicus*

In Uganda this species is restricted to the north-west and we found several in Murchison Falls NP.

**Blue-spotted Wood Dove***Turtur afer*

Common & widespread in Uganda, it was observed at a number of sites during the first half of the tour.

**Tambourine Dove***Turtur tympanistria*

This forest species was recorded in the Budongo Forest, Kibale NP, Bwindi Impenetrable NP and Mabira Forest.

**African Green Pigeon***Treron calva*

This colourful pigeon was observed at most woodland sites throughout the tour.

**Parrots and Allies Psittacidae****Red-headed Lovebird***Agapornis pullarius*

Great scope views were had of these little gems near Masindi with further sightings in QENP.

**Grey Parrot***Psittacus erithacus*

These large African parrots were seen in-flight on 3 occasions, namely at the Royal Mile, Kibale NP and Mabira Forest.

**Meyer's (Brown) Parrot***Poicephalus meyeri*

Lake Mburo NP produced the best sightings of this species during the tour.

**Turacos Musophagidae****Great Blue Turaco***Corythaëola cristata*

This magnificent species was encountered at scattered forested sites, with brilliant views of 10 birds on the Mubwindi Swamp trail at Ruhija.

**Black-billed Turaco** *Tauraco schuettii*

First seen briefly at Kibale NP, we then obtained good scope views in the forests at Buhoma.

**White-crested Turaco** *Tauraco leucolophus*

We enjoyed several fantastic views of this stunning bird at Kafu Ranches en route to Masindi.

**Ross's Turaco** *Musophaga rossae*

Surprisingly, this gorgeous species eluded us until we found it along the forest edge at Buhoma.

**Bare-faced Go-away-bird** *Corythaixoides personatus*

Lake Mburo NP offered us multiple sightings of these woodland birds.

**Eastern (Grey) Plantain-eater** *Crinifer zonurus*

This comical species was seen at numerous localities during the first week of the trip.

### Cuckoos Cuculidae

**Senegal Coucal** *Centropus senegalensis*

On our last morning in Murchison Falls NP we recorded this species.

**Blue-headed Coucal** *Centropus monachus*

This impressive coucal was seen during our boat cruise on the Victoria Nile and again en route to Kibale NP from Masindi.

**White-browed Coucal** *Centropus superciliosus*

Murchison Falls NP, QENP and Lake Mburo NP all yielded views of this bird.

*NOTE: Clements does not recognise the widely accepted split of the southern dark-browed Burchell's Coucal C. burchelli from the northerly White-browed Coucal C. superciliosus which we recorded in Uganda.*

**Black Coucal** *Centropus grillii*

A species favouring rank grassland, it was seen daily in Queen Elizabeth NP.

**Blue Malkoha (Yellowbill)** *Ceuthmochares aereus*

Whilst birding the forests of the Royal Mile and Buhoma we found this attractive forest coucal.

*Note: The IOC recognises the complex into Green Malkoha, C. australis that occurs in East and Southern Africa and Blue Malkoha, C. aereus that we observed and occurs in East, West and Central Africa. Clements does not as yet accept this split.*

**Dideric Cuckoo** *Chrysococcyx caprius*

We recorded this small cuckoo in the moist woodland of Murchison Falls NP.

**Klaas's Cuckoo** *Chrysococcyx klaas*

The Royal Mile, Kibale NP and the Neck produced sightings of this bird.

**African Emerald Cuckoo** *Chrysococcyx cupreus*

Juvenile male birds were seen at the Royal Mile and Bwindi Impenetrable NP.

**Dusky Long-tailed Cuckoo** *Cercococcyx mechowi*

This notorious skulker calls constantly from dense tangles and is difficult to see. However, we did have a fly-by at the Royal Mile and good scope views at Kaniyo Pabidi.

**Barred Long-tailed Cuckoo** *Cercococcyx montanus*

This high altitude cuckoo was seen in-flight at Ruhija, Bwindi Impenetrable NP.

**Red-chested Cuckoo** *Cuculus solitarius*

We first scoped a distant bird at Luwero Swamp and then had great views of a very vocal individual at the Royal Mile.

### Typical Owls Strigidae

**African Scops Owl** *Otus senegalensis*

This diminutive owl was heard in Lake Mburo NP.



**Verreaux's Eagle-Owl***Bubo lacteus*

We heard this species calling pre-dawn at our lodge in Murchison Falls NP. When tracking it down, the bird unfortunately flew off before we got a visual.

**African Wood Owl***Strix woodfordii*

During our stay at Buhoma Lodge we heard this forest owl, but were unsuccessful to lure it in with playback.

**Pearl-spotted Owlet***Glaucidium perlatum*

We had great scope views of this pugnacious little owl in the Acacia woodland of QENP.

**Red-chested Owlet***Glaucidium tephronotum*

Again, as per most of the aforementioned species, we had 2 responsive individuals but unfortunately they did not come in. This was at Buhoma, Bwindi Impenetrable NP and Kibale NP.

**Nightjars & Allies Caprimulgidae****Swamp (Natal) Nightjar***Caprimulgus natalensis*

We had a brief sighting of a male bird at dusk in Lake Mburo NP.

**Slender-tailed Nightjar***Caprimulgus clarus*

During our night drive in Murchison Falls NP we observed a bird in flight.

**Square-tailed (Mozambique) Nightjar***Caprimulgus fossii*

In QENP we had a very responsive individual fly low overhead in the late evening.

**Pennant-winged Nightjar***Macrodipteryx vexillarius*

This incredible species was first seen in Murchison Falls NP, however, the true highlight was watching 2 male birds in full breeding plumage gracing the air at nightfall in Lake Mburo NP with their pennants streaming out behind them!

**Swifts Apodidae****Scarce Swift***Schoutedenapus myoptilus*

This high altitude montane swift was spotted over the forests at Buhoma.

**African Palm Swift***Cypsiurus parvus*

This delicate swift was seen at Kafu Ranches, Masindi, Murchison Falls NP and en route to QENP.

*NOTE: The nominate African form of the Palm Swift is considered to be distinct from the Malagasy form C. p. gracilis by some authorities. IOC and Clements does not as yet recognise this split.*

**Alpine Swift***Tachymarptis melba*

An extremely large swift, we spotted it on several occasions overhead at QENP.

**African Black Swift***Apus barbatus*

1 bird was seen during our descent from the highlands near Kabale.

**Little Swift***Apus affinis*

Mostly seen over urban areas & settlements, we also had good views at Mweya Lodge, QENP.

**Horus Swift***Apus horus*

These swifts were recorded during our visit to the powerful Murchison Falls.

**White-rumped Swift***Apus caffer*

This bird was observed at scattered localities in association with waterbodies of some description.

**Mousebirds Coliidae****Speckled Mousebird***Colius striatus*

The most common & widespread mousebird, it was seen on all but 1 day during the tour.

**Blue-naped Mousebird***Urocolius macrourus*

The faster, more direct-flying cousin of the above species was recorded at Luwero Swamp, Murchison, QENP and Lake Mburo NP.

### Trogons Trogonidae

**Narina Trogon** *Apaloderma narina*

1 male bird was seen in the forests at Kaniyo Pabidi.

**Bar-tailed Trogon** *Apaloderma vittatum*

Whilst birding the forest at Buhoma, we found this attractive species in the forest interior.

### Rollers Coraciidae

**Lilac-breasted Roller** *Coracias caudata*

First seen in Lake Mburo NP, it was then spotted on telephone poles from Mburo to Kampala.

**Blue-throated Roller** *Eurystomus gularis*

A pair of these forest rollers was sighted at the Royal Mile.

**Broad-billed Roller** *Eurystomus glaucurus*

We encountered this species in moist environs throughout the country.

### Kingfishers Alcedinidae

**Chocolate-backed Kingfisher** *Halcyon badia*

The Royal Mile and Busingiro Forests yielded sightings of this canopy species which is difficult to locate despite its constant calling from above.

**Grey-headed (-hooded) Kingfisher** *Halcyon leucocephala*

We had good views of this woodland species at Murchison Falls NP, QENP and Lake Mburo NP.

**Striped Kingfisher** *Halcyon chelicuti*

It was recorded at moist woodland sites with good numbers in Lake Mburo NP.

**Blue-breasted Kingfisher** *Halcyon malimbica*

This stunning species offered outstanding views at the Royal Mile and in the Ishasha sector of QENP.

**Woodland Kingfisher** *Halcyon senegalensis*

It was seen at scattered sites including sightings within urban environments.

**African Dwarf Kingfisher** *Ispidina lecontei*

This diminutive forest kingfisher was spotted during our visit to the legendary Royal Mile.

**African Pygmy Kingfisher** *Ispidina picta*

Another little gem, it was observed multiple times at the Royal Mile and also in QENP.

**Malachite Kingfisher** *Alcedo cristata*

We found this species along the Victoria Nile, Kazinga Channel and Lake Mburo.

**Shining-blue Kingfisher** *Alcedo quadribrachys*

This highly sought-after kingfisher was seen at the Royal Mile and several times at Bigodi Swamp.

**Giant Kingfisher** *Megaceryle maxima*

We were fortunate to spot this beauty during our boat cruise on Lake Mburo.

**Pied Kingfisher** *Ceryle rudis*

Huge numbers (100+ at each site) of these birds were tallied along the Victoria Nile, Kazinga Channel and Lake Mburo.

### Bee-eaters Meropidae

**Black Bee-eater** *Merops gularis*

We enjoyed multiple sightings of this gorgeous bird at Kibale Forest, Bwindi Impenetrable NP and the Neck.



**Swallow-tailed Bee-eater***Merops hirundineus*

The north bank of the Nile in Murchison Falls NP produced views for some of this species.

**Little Bee-eater***Merops pusillus*

This pretty bird was seen at Kafu Ranches, QENP and Lake Mburo NP.

**Blue-breasted Bee-eater***Merops variegatus*

We had good, close-range scope views of this bird on the banks of the Victoria Nile in Murchison.

**Cinnamon-chested Bee-eater***Merops oreobates*

First seen near Buhoma, it was then recorded daily in the Ruhija area of Bwindi Impenetrable NP.

**Red-throated Bee-eater***Merops bulocki*

Luwero Swamp and Murchison Falls NP both held good sightings of these stunning birds.

**White-throated Bee-eater***Merops albicollis*

During a game drive in the Kasenyi area of QENP we found 2 of these birds.

**Olive (Madagascar) Bee-eater***Merops superciliosus*

We observed this species on several occasions in QENP.

**Northern Carmine Bee-eater***Merops nubicus*

Our sightings of this gorgeous bird were on the North Bank of the Nile in Murchison Falls NP and en route to Kibale NP from Masindi.

**Wood Hoopoes Phoeniculidae****White-headed Wood Hoopoe***Phoeniculus bollei*

Two small family flocks of 4 & 6 were seen whilst birding the forests at Buhoma.

**Green Wood Hoopoe***Phoeniculus purpureus*

First seen in the Palm savanna of Kafu Ranches, it was then only recorded at Lake Mburo thereafter.

**Common Scimitarbill***Rhinopomastus cyanomelas*

QENP and Lake Mburo NP both produced several sightings of these birds.

**Hornbills Bucerotidae****Crowned Hornbill***Tockus albiterminatus*

Recorded on multiple occasions, our best views were on the Butiaba Escarpment.

**African Pied Hornbill***Tockus fasciatus*

We had great scope views of a pair in Mabira Forest on the last morning of the tour.

**African Grey Hornbill***Tockus nasutus*

The common woodland species was seen near Masindi, in Murchison Falls NP & Lake Mburo NP.

**White-thighed Hornbill***Bycanistes albotibialis*

Scope views were had of this bird at the Royal Mile (Budongo Forest) and later an extremely southerly record at a forest patch south-west of Masindi.

**Black-and-white-casqued Hornbill***Bycanistes subcylindricus*

This attractive pied hornbill was seen at most forest/remnant forest sites on the tour.

**Ground Hornbills Bucorvidae****Abyssinian Ground Hornbill***Bucorvus abyssinicus*

We recorded a pair near Kaniyo Pabidi, in Murchison Falls NP and Bugungu Game Reserve.

**African Barbets Lybiidae****Grey-throated Barbet***Gymnobucco bonapartei*

We had good views at Kibale Forest & in the forests of Buhoma & Ruhija, Bwindi Impenetrable NP.

**Speckled Tinkerbird***Pogoniulus scolopaceus*

This forest species was observed on numerous occasions in suitable habitat.

**Western Tinkerbird** *Pogoniulus coryphaeus*

This little gem was seen on consecutive days at Ruhija.

**Yellow-throated Tinkerbird** *Pogoniulus subsulphureus*

Busingiro, Kibale and Mabira Forests yielded sightings of this species.

**Yellow (Golden)-rumped Tinkerbird** *Pogoniulus bilineatus*

The most common forest tinkerbird in Uganda, we had multiple sightings throughout the tour.

**Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird** *Pogoniulus chrysoconus*

6 birds were seen on day 1 en route from Kampala to Masindi, with another sighting at Lake Mburo.

**Yellow-spotted Barbet** *Buccanodon duchaillui*

This beautiful bird was seen at the Royal Mile, Kibale Forest, Buhoma and Mabira Forest.

**Hairy-breasted Barbet** *Tricholaema hirsuta*

We had some excellent views of this species in Kibale and Mabira Forests.

*Note: Some authorities split this species into Hairy-breasted Barbet T. hirsuta that occurs in West Africa and Streaky-throated Barbet T. flavipunctata that we observed and occurs in East and Central Africa. IOC and Clements do not as yet accept this split (see Ryan and Sinclair 2003).*

**Spot-flanked Barbet** *Tricholaema lacrymosa*

This species was seen at Luwero Swamp, QENP and Lake Mburo NP.

**White-headed Barbet** *Lybius leucocephalus*

A bird with a call that does not match its stature, it was seen in the woodland of Kafu Ranches and near Masindi.

**Red-faced Barbet** *Lybius rubrifacies*

An East African endemic with a restricted range in Uganda, it was first recorded at a distance in Lake Mburo NP and the following day a pair was seen very well outside the park.

**Black-billed Barbet** *Lybius guifsobalito*

2 birds offered great, full-frame scope views in the bush clump woodland outside Murchison Falls NP.

**Double-toothed Barbet** *Lybius bidentatus*

We had excellent views of this spectacular bird at Luwero Swamp & in the riparian forest of Lake Mburo.

**Yellow-billed Barbet** *Trachyphonus purpuratus*

After hearing this species at the Royal Mile, we had a sighting at Busingiro and then incredible views of this magnificent barbet at Bigodi Swamp.

### Honeyguides Indicatoridae

**Dwarf Honeyguide \* ARE** *Indicator pumilio*

This difficult-to-locate bird was seen by some at the forest edge in Ruhija.

**Willcocks's Honeyguide** *Indicator willcocksii*

The Royal Mile, Busingiro and the Neck all produced sightings of this species.

**Greater Honeyguide** *Indicator indicator*

A single immature male bird was scoped in Murchison Falls NP.

### Woodpeckers Picidae

**Nubian Woodpecker** *Campethera nubica*

This woodland species was seen at Luwero Swamp and Lake Mburo NP.

**Green-backed Woodpecker** *Campethera cailliautii*

Shortly before departing from Buhoma, we had good scope views of a female bird at the forest edge.

**Tullberg's (Fine-banded) Woodpecker** *Campethera tullbergi*

We recorded this species along the school trail at Ruhija.



**Brown-eared Woodpecker***Campethera caroli*

First seen at the Royal Mile, a female was later watched for a lengthy period at Mabira Forest.

**Cardinal Woodpecker***Dendropicos fuscescens*

This common & widespread bird was seen at a number of woodland/forest edge sites.

**Yellow-crested (Golden-crowned) Woodpecker***Dendropicos xantholophus*

This bird was seen several times in the forests of the Royal Mile.

**Elliot's Woodpecker***Dendropicos elliotii*

We recorded this small forest woodpecker on consecutive days in the forest of Buhoma, Bwindi NP.

**[African] Grey Woodpecker***Dendropicos goertae*

This species was found at Luwero Swamp and Murchison Falls NP.

**Olive Woodpecker**

A male bird was seen late in the afternoon in a mixed feeding flock near Mubwindi Swamp.

**Brown-backed Woodpecker***Dendropicos obsoletus*

Murchison Falls NP produced a sighting of a pair of these uncommon woodpeckers.

**Broadbills Eurylaimidae****African Broadbill***Smithornis capensis*

A displaying bird was found in the forests at Buhoma, Bwindi Impenetrable NP.

**Rufous-sided Broadbill***Smithornis rufolateralis*

We had the good fortune of observing this sought-after forest species in the scope at close quarters at Kaniyo Pabidi.

**Pittas Pittidae****Green-breasted Pitta***Pitta reichenowi*

After listening to the bird calling and then tracking it down, we were all treated to amazing views of a bird displaying at close range in Kibale Forest. This was one of the star birds of the tour!

**Wattle-eyes & Batises Platysteiridae****(African) Shrike-flycatcher***Megabyas flammulatus*

A pair was recorded in Busingiro Forest and a male on our last morning at Mabira Forest.

**Black-and-white (Shrike-) Flycatcher***Bias musicus*

2 pairs were observed at Bigodi Swamp, with further sightings in Bwindi Impenetrable NP.

NOTE: An alternative common name for this species is Vanga Flycatcher.

**Chestnut Wattle-eye***Dyaphorophyia castanea*

First seen briefly at the Royal Mile, we later had good views at Buhoma, Bwindi Impenetrable NP.

**Jameson's Wattle-eye***Dyaphorophyia jamesoni*

We were fortunate to record an immature bird at Buhoma and then an adult male at Mabira Forest.

NOTE: This species is sometimes lumped into the West African Red-cheeked Wattle-eye *D. blissetti*.

**Ruwenzori Batis \* ARE***Batis diops*

This Albertine Rift endemic was recorded on a couple of occasions at Ruhija.

**Chinspot Batis***Batis molitor*

This bird was seen at Buhoma, Ruhija and Lake Mburo NP. It is interesting to note that in East Africa, this typical woodland species inhabits forest edge.

**[Western] Black-headed Batis***Batis erlangeri*

It was observed at most moist woodland sites, with excellent views at Kafu Ranches & Lake Mburo.

**Brown-throated Wattle-eye***Platysteira cyanea*

Common & widespread in Uganda, we recorded this species at several woodland/forested sites.



### Bushshrikes Malaconotidae

- Grey-headed Bushshrike** *Malacotus blanchoti*  
Initially this bird was heard at Kafu Ranches, but later a pair was seen in Murchison Falls NP.
- Bocage's Bushshrike** *Chlorophoneus bocagei*  
Our initial sighting was at Bigodi Swamp and thereafter we had excellent views of several individuals at Buhoma along the forest edge.
- Orange-(sulphur)breasted Bushshrike** *Chlorophoneus sulfureopectus*  
First seen near our lodge in Murchison, it was later observed in a mixed feeding flock outside Lake Mburo NP.
- Doherty's Bushshrike** *Chlorophoneus dohertyi*  
This gorgeous bird was found in tangled secondary forest near Ruhija.
- Marsh Tchagra** *Tchagra minuta*  
A species that favours rank grassland, it was spotted near the Royal Mile and again in QENP.  
*NOTE: The more southerly forms of this species are often separated as Anchieta's Tchagra T. anchietae with the Ugandan form retained in the nominate group.*
- Brown-crowned Tchagra** *Tchagra australis*  
QENP, Buhoma and the Neck yielded sightings of this bird.
- Black-crowned Tchagra** *Tchagra senegalus*  
Murchison Falls NP offered several views of this bird. It was later heard at our lunch stop near Kabale.
- Pink-footed Puffback** *Dryoscopus angolensis*  
An uncommon forest shrike, we found 1 bird in a mixed feeding flock at Buhoma.
- Northern Puffback** *Dryoscopus gambensis*  
Scattered sightings were had of this puffback during the tour.
- Mountain Sooty Boubou** *Laniarius poensis*  
This major skulker was only heard on our last morning at Ruhija.
- Lühder's Bushshrike** *Laniarius luehderi*  
We obtained our first sighting of this striking bird at the forest edge near Kibale NP and later had great views at both Buhoma & Ruhija.
- Tropical Boubou** *Laniarius aethiopicus*  
First seen in scrubby habitat near Masindi, a pair was later recorded en route to the Neck from Buhoma.
- Papyrus Gonolek** *Laniarius mufumbiri*  
Another great-looking bird, it was found along the Victoria Nile and at a roadside swamp en route to Kibale NP.
- Black-headed Gonolek** *Laniarius erythrogaster*  
This startlingly beautiful species was seen multiple times in suitable woodland habitat throughout.
- Brubru** *Nilais afer*  
1 bird responded well to playback in *Acacia* woodland at Lake Mburo NP.

### Cuckooshrikes Campephagidae

- Grey Cuckooshrike** *Coracina caesia*  
We had sightings of this forest bird at the Neck and Ruhija, Bwindi Impenetrable NP.
- Black Cuckooshrike** *Campephaga flava*  
Both male & female birds were seen well in the *Acacia* woodland of Lake Mburo NP.
- Red-shouldered Cuckooshrike** *Campephaga phoenicea*  
We had good scope views of this stunning cuckooshrike in QENP.
- Petit's Cuckooshrike** *Campephaga petiti*



A female was seen on the boundary of Kibale NP, followed by multiple sightings of both sexes at Buhoma & Ruhija.

**Purple-throated Cuckooshrike***Campephaga quiscalina*

Mabira Forest delivered up a pair of these elusive birds on the last morning of the tour.

**Shrikes Laniidae****Mackinnon's Shrike (Fiscal)***Lanius mackinnoni*

A forest edge/secondary growth species, we recorded several birds near the town of Buhoma.

**Grey-backed Fiscal***Lanius excubitoroides*

By far the most common fiscal in Uganda, it was seen in woodland/savanna habitats throughout.

**Common Fiscal***Lanius collaris*

This bird was recorded regularly along the roadside on travel days.

**Orioles Oriolidae****Western (Black-headed) Oriole***Oriolus brachyrhynchus*

We had good views of a bird at the nest in the Royal Mile, and other sightings at Buhoma & Mabira.

**Mountain (Black-tailed) Oriole***Oriolus percivali*

This high altitude, montane species was observed a number of times at & near Ruhija.

**(African) Black-headed Oriole***Oriolus larvatus*

It was seen in the woodland habitats of Kafu Ranches and Lake Mburo NP.

**Drongos Dicruridae****Fork-tailed Drongo***Dicrurus adsimilis*

Scattered sightings were had of this widespread & common bird at woodland localities.

**Velvet-mantled Drongo***Dicrurus modestus*

1 bird was seen by some participants in the forest at Buhoma.

**Monarch Monarchidae****Red-bellied (Black-headed) Paradise Flycatcher***Terpsiphone rufiventer*

This handsome species was recorded in Kibale NP and later heard in Mabira Forest.

**African Paradise Flycatcher***Terpsiphone viridis*

Numerous sightings were had of this pretty flycatcher throughout the tour.

**Crows Corvidae****Piapiac***Ptilostomus afer*

First observed near Kafu Ranches in good numbers, it was later recorded at Murchison Falls NP, QENP and Jinja.

**Pied Crow***Corvus albus*

Widespread & very common, it was seen over urban & rural settlements.

**Fairy Flycatchers Stenostiridae****African Blue Flycatcher***Elminia longicauda*

This beautifully coloured bird was seen at Luwero Swamp, Murchison Falls NP, QENP & Mabira Forest.

**White-tailed Blue Flycatcher***Elminia albicauda*

This highly active species was seen daily along the forest edge of Bwindi Impenetrable NP.

**White-bellied Crested Flycatcher***Elminia albiventris*

A couple of these understory birds were seen in the forest at Buhoma.

### Tits Paridae

#### **White-shouldered Black Tit**

*Melaniparus guineensis*

Kafu Ranches and Murchison Falls NP produced sightings of this species with its pale eye.

#### **White-winged Black Tit**

*Melaniparus leucomelas*

Whilst birding in Lake Mburo NP, we had several good views of this species. It separated from the previous species by its dark eye.

#### **Dusky Tit**

*Melaniparus funereus*

The Royal Mile (Budongo Forest) and Bwindi Impenetrable NP offered views of this bird.

#### **Stripe-breasted Tit \*ARE**

*Melaniparus fasciiventer*

Another of the Albertine Rift endemic bird possible on the trip, it was seen well at Ruhija.

### Penduline Tits Remizidae

#### **Grey (African) Penduline Tit**

*Anthoscopus caroli*

We were fortunate to this species in a mixed feeding flock upon exiting Lake Mburo NP.

### Nicators Nicatoridae

#### **Western Nicator**

*Nicator chloris*

We had good views of this species at the Royal Mile, and then heard it at several other forests.

### Larks Alaudidae

#### **Rufous-naped Lark**

*Mirafraga africana*

The more moist grasslands of QENP were good for this species on the tour.

#### **Flappet Lark**

*Mirafraga rufocinnamomea*

It was seen at Kafu Ranches, Murchison Falls NP, QENP and Lake Mburo NP.

### Bulbuls Pycnonotidae

#### **Dark-capped Bulbul**

*Pycnonotus tricolor*

Probably the most common bird of the trip, and recorded virtually every day.

*Note: A confusing genus, the birds we observed have been split by the IOC from Common Bulbul P. barbatus which is found further north in Africa. Clements does not yet recognise this split.*

#### **Kakamega (Shelley's) Greenbul**

*Andropadus kakamegae*

We had good views of this species along the forest trails at Buhoma, Bwindi NP.

*Note: A recent split from Shelley's Greenbul A. masukuensis, which is restricted to the Eastern Arc Mountains of Tanzania and northern Malawi. Kakamega Greenbul is restricted to the Albertine Rift and a few scattered forest sites in East Africa, and named for the forest in western Kenya from which it was described.*

#### **Olive-breasted (Mountain) Greenbul**

*Andropadus nigriceps*

The higher altitude montane forests of Ruhija produced sightings of this bird.

*Note: The Mountain Greenbuls have recently been split into a number of species scattered in higher altitude forest patches across Africa. The birds we saw are endemic to the Albertine Rift and central Kenya.*

#### **Little Greenbul**

*Andropadus virens*

Along with Yellow-whiskered Greenbul, this was the most common and vocal greenbul of the tour.

#### **Little Grey Greenbul**

*Andropadus gracilis*

First seen at the Royal Mile, it was later observed at Kibale & Bwindi NP's.

#### **Ansorge's Greenbul**

*Andropadus ansorgei*



We had good views of this nondescript species at Buhoma (it exhibits a most distinctive call). Interestingly, this species was only recently discovered in Uganda with the first confirmed record in August 2001 by Nik Borrow and Adam Riley.

**Plain (Cameroon Sombre) Greenbul** *Andropadus curvirostris*

This species was recorded on the last morning of the tour at Mabira Forest.

**Slender-billed Greenbul** *Andropadus gracilirostris*

Quite a conspicuous greenbul, it was found on the outer edge of the canopy at most forests sites.

**Yellow-whiskered Greenbul** *Andropadus latirostris*

Generally found in undergrowth and mid-storey, this species was recorded at the Royal Mile, Kibale & Bwindi NP's.

**Honeyguide Greenbul** *Baeopogon indicator*

Easily identified by its white outer tail feathers in flight, we spotted it in Kibale and Bwindi NP's.

**Spotted Greenbul** *Ixonotus guttatus*

We enjoyed incredible views of this canopy species perched at the Royal Mile. It is nicknamed "sprinting greenbul" because it usually moves through the canopy at high speed.

**Joyful Greenbul** *Chlorocichla laetissima*

A fairly localised species in Uganda, we had good views at the edge of Kibale Forest.

**Yellow-throated Leaflove (Greenbul)** *Chlorocichla flavicollis*

First seen en route o Kibale NP, we later enjoyed close-up sightings at Buhoma.

*Note: Birds in Uganda belong to the subspecies flavigula (also known as pallidigula).*

**Toro Olive Greenbul** *Phyllastrephus hypochloris*

We were fortunate to find 2 birds in the late afternoon at Busingiro, Budongo Forest.

**Cabanis's Greenbul** *Phyllastrephus cabanisi*

This bird was recorded in the dense undergrowth of "The Neck" and Ruhija.

**White-throated Greenbul** *Phyllastrephus albigularis*

This species was seen at the Royal Mile and Mabira Forest.

**Yellow-streaked Greenbul** *Phyllastrephus flavostriatus*

We recorded 2 birds at the forest edge along the school trail, Ruhija.

**Red-tailed Bristlebill** *Bleda syndactylus*

The forests at Buhoma produced a sighting of this bird.

**Red-tailed Greenbul** *Criniger calurus*

We encountered this bird at the Royal Mile, Busingiro, Buhoma and Mabira Forest.

### Swallows & Martins Hirundinidae

**White-headed Saw-wing** *Psalidoprocne albiceps*

It was found throughout the country at lower altitudes with excellent sightings at the entrance to Murchison Falls NP.

**Black Saw-wing** *Psalidoprocne holomelas*

This bird generally replaces the previous species at high altitude sites where it was seen in Bwindi NP.

*NOTE: The Black Saw-wing complex is sometimes split into eight full species with the Ugandan form being retained in P. holomelas.*

**Brown-throated (Plain) Martin** *Riparia paludicola*

Good numbers of this water associated species were seen on the Kazinga Channel, QENP.

**Banded Martin** *Riparia cincta*

The grasslands in QENP yielded sightings of this large martin.

**Angola Swallow** *Hirundo angolensis*

This glossy-blue backed swallow was seen on most days throughout the tour

**Wire-tailed Swallow** *Hirundo smithii*



We had our best views along the Nile in Murchison Falls NP during our boat cruise.

**Rock Martin** *Ptyonoprogne fuligula*

It was seen on most days during the second half of the tour.

NOTE: This confusing polytypic complex is being reviewed for multi-species splitting. Within the African populations, three potential species exist. The southern African nominate form H. f. *fuligula* would remain as Rock Martin and the more northern populations would become Red-throated Rock Martin H. *pusilla* which is resident in Uganda. Palearctic birds would become Pale Crag Martin H. *obsoleta*. IOC and Clements do not as yet recognise any of these splits.

**Lesser Striped Swallow** *Cecropis abyssinica*

Not as common as Angola Swallow, however, it was regularly recorded throughout the trip.

**Mosque Swallow** *Cecropis senegalensis*

This large hirundine was seen at scattered woodland sites with good views in Murchison Falls NP.

**Red-rumped Swallow** *Cecropis daurica*

Generally uncommon in Uganda, we only found this species in the Ruhija.

### Cettia Bush Warblers & Allies Cettidae

**Neumann's (Short-tailed) Warbler \* ARE** *Hemitesia neumanni*

Eventually, after much searching we had good views of this mega skulker & Albertine Rift endemic at Buhoma, Bwindi NP.

**Grauer's Warbler \* ARE** *Graueria vittata*

We had magnificent views of 2 birds, completely out in the open, at Ruhija. This Albertine Rift endemic is a skulker and not usually easy to find.

**Chestnut-capped Flycatcher** *Erythrocerus mccallii*

Whilst birding the Royal Mile we had a few sightings of this species in the canopy.

**Green Hylia** *Hylia prasina*

Seen and heard (a distinctive call) in most forest patches throughout the country.

**Tit-Hylia** *Pholidornis rushiae*

This diminutive species is only known from three forests in East Africa. We enjoyed superb views in Mabira Forest; where we were treated to a pair nest-building and observed several change-overs!

### Leaf Warblers & Allies Phylloscopidae

**Red-faced Woodland Warbler \* ARE** *Phylloscopus laetus*

We had multiple sightings of this delightful Albertine Rift endemic in the forests of at Ruhija and Buhoma.

### Reed Warblers & Allies Acrocephalidae

**Greater Swamp Warbler** *Acrocephalus rufescens*

During our boat ride on Lake Mburo we found 1 bird.

**Mountain Yellow Warbler** *Chloropeta similis*

This higher altitude species was recorded daily in the Ruhija area of Bwindi NP.

### Grassbirds & Allies Megaluridae

**Grauer's Swamp Warbler \*** *Bradypterus graueri*

We unfortunately only heard this Albertine Rift endemic while at Mubwindi Swamp, Ruhija.

**White-winged Swamp Warbler** *Bradypterus carpalis*

1 of these skulkers was found at a small Papyrus swamp en route from the Royal Mile to Masindi.

**Cinnamon Bracken Warbler** *Bradypterus cinnamomeus*

Brief views were had of this undergrowth specialist at Ruhija.



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### Cisticolas & Allies Cisticolidae

- Red-faced Cisticola** *Cisticola erythrops*  
This widespread bird was only seen in the cultivated fields near the Royal Mile.
- Singing Cisticola** *Cisticola cantans*  
A couple birds we seen near Lake Mburo NP.
- Whistling Cisticola** *Cisticola lateralis*  
On our approach to the Royal Mile, this species was recorded in the sugar cane fields.
- Trilling Cisticola** *Cisticola woosnami*  
First seen near Bwindi NP, it was later found in Lake Mburo NP.
- Chubb's Cisticola** *Cisticola chubbi*  
This noisy, communal cisticola was observed daily in the highlands of Bwindi NP.
- Rattling Cisticola** *Cisticola chiniana*  
Usually a common African bird, it was only seen in Murchison Falls NP.
- Winding Cisticola** *Cisticola marginatus*  
Our initial sighting was en route to Masindi, with further views in Murchison Falls NP.  
*NOTE: Some authorities split this widespread African species into five species; Winding Cisticola C. marginatus, which occurs in East, Central and West Africa (which we recorded). The other four species are Coastal Cisticola C. haematocephalus that occurs in coastal East Africa, Luapula Cisticola C. luapula occurring largely in Zambia, Rufous-winged Cisticola C. galactotes of coastal Southern Africa and Ethiopian Cisticola C. lugubris endemic to Ethiopia. IOC ratifies this split (however Clements does not as yet recognise these splits).*
- Carruthers's Cisticola** *Cisticola carruthersi*  
Our only record of this species was at Mubwindi Swamp near Ruhija.
- Stout Cisticola** *Cisticola robustus*  
This bird was only seen on a game drive in the long grasslands near the entrance of QENP.
- Croaking Cisticola** *Cisticola natalensis*  
It was regularly recorded during the first week of the tour in suitable habitat.
- Short-winged (Siffling) Cisticola** *Cisticola brachypterus*  
This tiny cisticola with a distinctive call was seen near the Royal Mile and in QENP.
- Foxy Cisticola** *Cisticola troglodytes*  
A single bird was found in the scrubby habitat on the north bank of the Victoria Nile.
- Long-tailed (Tabora) Cisticola** *Cisticola angusticaudus*  
We recorded this attractive cisticola on consecutive days in Lake Mburo NP.
- Zitting (Fan-tailed) Cisticola** *Cisticola juncidis*  
This widespread species was seen daily in QENP.
- Tawny-flanked Prinia** *Prinia subflava*  
It was observed at regular intervals during the first half of the tour.
- Black-faced (Banded) Prinia** *Prinia bairdii*  
We were fortunate to have several sightings of this striking species in Bwindi Impenetrable NP.  
*NOTE: The Ugandan form (which we observed) is sometimes split off as Black-faced Prinia P. melanops. This split is recognised by the IOC.*
- White-chinned Prinia** *Schistolais leucopogon*  
A highly vocal species, it was seen near Masindi, en route to QENP and along the forest edge at Buhoma.
- Red-winged Warbler** *Heliolais erythropterus*  
After a lengthy search we eventually enjoyed great views of this species near Budongo Forest Reserve.
- Ruwenzori (Collared) Apalis \*** *Apalis ruwenzorii*  
This stunning Albertine Rift endemic was seen on a couple of occasions in the Ruhija area.  
*NOTE: This species is sometimes lumped into Black-collared Apalis A. pulchra.*
- Red-winged Grey Warbler** *Drymocichla incana*
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We were treated to excellent views in the riparian scrub in Murchison Falls NP.

**Buff-bellied Warbler** *Phyllolais pulchella*

A very small warbler, that favours Acacia tress, it was seen at Luwero Swamp & Lake Mburo NP.

**Yellow-breasted Apalis** *Apalis flavida*

This apalis was seen at Luwero Swamp, Murchison Falls NP and in Lake Mburo NP.

*NOTE: This widespread polytypic African species is likely to be split into two or more species, with the central Ugandan form becoming Green-tailed Apalis A. caniceps. IOC and Clements do not as yet recognise this split.*

**Lowland Masked Apalis** *Apalis binotata*

A pair of these attractive birds was recorded at Sebitole near Kibale Forest.

**Mountain Masked Apalis \*** *Apalis personata*

Restricted to the southwest of Uganda, this ARE was recorded around Ruhija.

**Black-throated Apalis** *Apalis jacksoni*

Probably the commonest forest (and forest edge) apalis in Uganda, we had good views of this species at Budongo Forest and in Bwindi Impenetrable NP.

**Black-capped Apalis** *Apalis nigriceps*

This uncommon and difficult-to-locate bird was found in the primary forest of the Royal Mile.

**Chestnut-throated Apalis** *Apalis porphyrolaema*

The montane forests around Buhoma and Ruhija produced several sightings of this bird.

**Buff-throated Apalis** *Apalis rufogularis*

Peak numbers of 10+ were recorded in lower altitude forest at Buhoma.

**Grey Apalis** *Apalis cinerea*

This species was seen in the forests at Ruhija.

**Grey-capped Warbler** *Eminia lepida*

More frequently heard than seen, this beauty was well seen at Luwero Swamp and in Bwindi NP.

**Grey-backed Camaroptera** *Camaroptera brevicaudata*

A widespread species, we first recorded it on a travel day en route to Masindi.

**Yellow-browed Camaroptera** *Camaroptera superciliaris*

On our last morning of the tour we found this little beauty in the mid-storey of Mabira Forest.

**Olive-green Camaroptera** *Camaroptera chloronota*

A skulky bird with a distinctive voice, it was seen at Busingiro and Buhoma forests.

**Black-faced Rufous Warbler** *Bathmocercus rufus*

Buhoma produced excellent sightings of this stunning undergrowth skulker.

**Green-capped Eremomela** *Eremomela scotops*

We recorded a small family party of these broad-leafed woodland birds in Lake Mburo NP.

**Rufous-crowned Eremomela** *Eremomela badiceps*

A localised species in east Africa (only found in western Uganda), we recorded it at the Royal Mile.

### Family Uncertain Incertae sedis

**Moustached Grass Warbler** *Melocichla mentalis*

First found at Masindi Ranches, it was then seen near the Royal Mile and in the grasslands of QENP.

**Yellow Longbill** *Macrosphenus flavicans*

Mabira Forest yielded a sighting of this species after it responded to playback.

**Grey Longbill** *Macrosphenus concolor*

Another denizen of the forest, we had excellent views at eye-level in Mabira Forest.

**Northern Crombec** *Sylvietta brachyura*



A few birds were seen on the Butiaba Escarpment and in Murchison Falls NP.

**Red-faced Crombec** *Sylvietta whytii*

This common species in East Africa was seen en route to Masindi and at Lake Mburo NP.

**Green Crombec** *Sylvietta virens*

A commonly heard forest crombec throughout Uganda, it was seen at Sebitole near Kibale Forest.

**Lemon-bellied Crombec** *Sylvietta denti*

After craning our necks for several long minutes, we managed to spot this canopy-dweller in the forests of the Royal Mile.

### Babblers Timaliidae

**Scaly-breasted Illadopsis** *Illadopsis albipectus*

Unfortunately, this skulker was only heard at the Royal Mile.

**Puvel's Illadopsis** *Illadopsis puveli*

We had excellent views of this secretive species at Kaniyo Pabidi (part of Budongo Forest). This is the only known area for this bird in East Africa!

**Pale-breasted Illadopsis** *Illadopsis rufipennis*

Whilst attempting to locate a Blue-shouldered Robin-Chat at Mabira Forest, some of the group had great views of this bird.

**Brown Illadopsis** *Illadopsis fulvescens*

Several of these melodic birds were seen in the dense tangles around our lodgings at Kibale Forest.

**Mountain Illadopsis** *Illadopsis pyrrhoptera*

The forests at Buhoma and Mubwindi Swamp held sightings of this species. Interestingly, this bird is usually found in loose groups alongside Black-faced Rufous Warbler.

**Ruwenzori (African) Hill Babbler** *Pseudoalcippe atriceps*

A handful of the pretty birds were seen in the forests at Ruhija.

*NOTE: The black-headed Rwenzori form that we saw in south-western Uganda, I. a. atriceps is sometimes split off as Rwenzori Hill Babbler. The subspecies occurring in East Africa from Zambia to Eritrea remain with the nominate grouping I. a. abyssinica African Hill Babbler. Clements do not recognize this split.*

**Black-lored Babbler** *Turdoides sharpei*

This woodland species was seen at QENP and Lake Mburo NP.

**Brown Babbler** *Turdoides plebejus*

Our only sighting of this bird was in woodland of Murchison Falls NP.

**Arrow-marked Babbler** *Turdoides jardineii*

QENP and Lake Mburo NP produced sightings of this widespread African species.

### White-eyes Zosteropidae

**African Yellow White-eye** *Zosterops senegalensis*

The only white-eye in Uganda, it was commonly recorded along forest edge and woodland throughout.

### Hyliotas Hylotiidae

**Yellow-bellied Hyliota** *Hyliota flavigaster*

We were treated to dream-like views of this special in the woodland of Masindi Ranches.

### Starlings Sturnidae

**Wattled Starling** *Creatophora cinerea*

This flock bird was seen in QENP and Lake Mburo area.

**Purple-headed (Glossy-) Starling** *Lamprotornis purpureiceps*



It was seen at all three tracts of forest that comprise the Budongo Forest Reserve and at Buhoma.

**Greater Blue-eared (Glossy-) Starling** *Lamprotornis chalybaeus*

Lake Mburo NP produced daily sightings of this bird which is restricted to the south of the country.

**Lesser Blue-eared (Glossy-) Starling** *Lamprotornis chloropterus*

This species is common in the northern savannas of Uganda, and we saw good numbers around Masindi and in Murchison Falls NP.

*NOTE: This species complex is widely treated as two distinct species, the nominate group which we recorded in Uganda, remains as Lesser Blue-eared Starling and the southern broad-leaved woodland form becomes Miombo Blue-eared Starling L. elisabeth. IOC recognises this split (but Clements does not).*

**Splendid (Glossy-) Starling** *Lamprotornis splendidus*

We had good views of this stunning bird en route to Masindi on day 1 of the trip.

**Purple (Glossy-) Starling** *Lamprotornis purpureus*

A couple birds were found in the woodland of Luwero Swamp en route to Masindi.

**Rüppell's (Glossy-) Starling** *Lamprotornis purpuroptera*

The most common starling in Uganda, it was seen on most days in woodland habitat.

**Violet-backed (Plum-coloured) Starling** *Cinnyricinclus leucogaster*

This exquisite bird was seen en route to Masindi and in Ishasha sector of QENP.

**Stuhlmann's Starling** *Poeoptera stuhlmanni*

Half-a-dozen of these forest starlings were recorded at Buhoma.

**Narrow-tailed Starling** *Poeoptera lugubris*

We had very good, prolonged sightings of this delicately built bird at Kibale Forest.

**Sharpe's Starling** *Pholia sharpii*

A flock of 4 birds was seen flying over the forests at Ruhija.

### Oxpeckers Buphagidae

**Yellow-billed Oxpecker** *Buphagus africanus*

We recorded it in the national parks of Murchison Falls, Queen Elizabeth and Lake Mburo.

### Thrushes Turdidae

**Red-tailed Rufous (Ant-) Thrush** *Neocossyphus rufus*

The Royal Mile yielded a sighting or two of this tricky bird.

**Fraser's Rufous Thrush (Rufous Flycatcher-Thrush)** *Stizorhina fraseri*

We encountered this songster in the forests of the Royal Mile and Bwindi Impenetrable NP.

**African Thrush** *Turdus pelios*

Scattered but frequent views were had of this common thrush throughout the tour.

**Fire-crested Alethe** *Alethe castanea*

Despite several attempts to lure this skulker in, we only managed a "heard" tick at Busingiro.

*NOTE: The Ugandan form is sometimes split from the nominate White-tailed Alethe of West Africa, becoming A. castanea.*

**Red-throated Alethe \*** *Alethe poliophrys*

This ARE was seen very well and repeatedly along the forest trail at Buhoma.

### Chats and Old World Flycatchers Muscicapidae

**White-starred Robin** *Pogonochila stellata*

During our day excursion to Mubwindi Swamp, we had superb views of 4 of these stunning birds.

**Eastern Forest Robin** *Stiphrornis xanthogaster*

We had an excellent sighting of this small robin in the undergrowth of the Royal Mile.

*NOTE: This widespread tropical genus has been split into four species (which IOC accepts), which are variably distributed from east across to west Africa. Clements does not as yet recognize these splits. Interestingly, a new species, Olive-backed*



*Forest Robin* *Stiphornis pyrrholaemus* has been discovered in Gabon, bringing the *Stiphornis* genus to a total of five species.

**Equatorial Akalat***Sheppardia aequatorialis*

A total of 6 of these delightful birds were seen along the forest trail at Buhoma.

**White-bellied Robin-Chat***Cossyphicula roberti*

Superficially similar to the previous species, we observed two at Buhoma.

**Archer's Ground Robin (-Chat) \****Cossypha archeri*

We were treated to excellent views of this sought after Albertine Rift endemic at Ruhija.

**Grey-winged Robin-Chat***Cossypha polioptera*

Whilst birding near our lodgings at Buhoma we had incredible views of this stunner.

**Blue-shouldered Robin-Chat***Cossypha cyanocampter*

This accomplished songster which was seen by some at Mabira Forest.

**White-browed (Heuglin's) Robin-Chat***Cossypha heuglini*

Many sightings were had of this handsome species at QENP.

**Red-capped Robin-Chat (Natal Robin)***Cossypha natalensis*

Another vocal master, we had good views at Kibale Forest and Buhoma.

**Snowy-crowned Robin-Chat***Cossypha niveicapilla*

We enjoyed excellent scope views of a pair not far from the town of Masindi en route to Kibale.

**Spotted Palm (Morning-) Thrush***Cichladusa guttata*

Murchison Falls NP produced a few sightings of this attractive bird.

**Brown-backed Scrub Robin***Cercotrichas hartlaubi*

Another songster that we recorded at Luwero Swamp and near the Royal Mile.

**White-browed (Red-backed) Scrub Robin***Cercotrichas leucophrys*

This widespread African bushveld bird was seen in QENP and at Lake Mburo.

**African Stonechat***Saxicola torquatus*

A few birds were recorded on travel days between Buhoma and Ruhija and Ruhija and Lake Mburo.

*NOTE: Many authorities (including Clements and the IOC) recognise the split of African S. torquatus and Common S. rubicola Stonechats (the latter a Palaearctic species), which is not followed by all authorities. Further splitting may occur in both groups including the highland Ethiopian form S. t. albofasciata that may become Ethiopian Stonechat.*

**Familiar Chat***Cercomela familiaris*

This species was seen near the town of Kabale in south-western Uganda.

**Sooty Chat***Myrmecocichla nigra*

This species was common in grassy savanna habitats throughout the tour.

**Mocking Cliff Chat***Thamnolaea cinnamomeiventris*

An attractive species, it was seen by some at our lunch stop on the Butiaba Escarpment.

**Fraser's (African) Forest Flycatcher***Fraseria ocreata*

Generally a scarce bird, we had good sightings at the Royal Mile and in the forest near Buhoma.

**White-eyed Slaty Flycatcher***Dioptrornis fischeri*

This species was seen daily at Buhoma and Ruhija, along the forest edge.

**Yellow-eyed Black Flycatcher \****Malaenornis ardesiacus*

An Albertine Rift endemic, it was recorded along the forest trails at Buhoma and Mubwindi Swamp.

**Northern Black Flycatcher***Melaenornis edolioides*

It was regularly recorded in open woodland species during the tour.

**Southern Black Flycatcher***Melaenornis pammelaina*

Restricted to the southern savanna area of Uganda, and hence only found in the Lake Mburo area.

**Pale Flycatcher***Bradornis pallidus*

First seen at Masindi Ranches, it was later encountered in Murchison Falls NP.



**Silverbird***Empidonax semipartitus*

Murchison Falls NP and the Butiaba Escarpment produced sightings of this stunning flycatcher.

**Ashy Flycatcher***Muscicapa caerulescens*

This riparian/forest edge species was observed en route to QENP and at the “Neck”.

**Swamp Flycatcher***Muscicapa aquatica*

We had unbeatable views of this diminutive flycatcher at Mweya Lodge, QENP and other sightings at Papyrus Swamps en route to and at Lake Mburo.

**Cassin's Flycatcher***Muscicapa cassini*

Of the three separate sightings we had, our best views were at a small highland stream at the “Neck”.

**African Dusky Flycatcher***Muscicapa adusta*

A widespread bird that frequents forest edge, it was encountered daily in Bwindi Impenetrable Forest.

**Dusky-blue Flycatcher***Muscicapa comitata*

A single bird was recorded near our lodgings at Buhoma.

**Sooty Flycatcher***Muscicapa infuscata*

We managed to achieve good scope views of this forest species at Kibale Forest and Buhoma.

**Grey-throated Tit-Flycatcher***Myioparus griseigularis*

This active forest bird was seen at the Royal Mile, Busingiro Forest and Buhoma.

**Grey Tit-Flycatcher***Myioparus plumbeus*

The woodland version of the previous species, it was observed en route to Kibale & at Lake Mburo NP.

**Sunbirds Nectariniidae****Grey-headed Sunbird***Deleornis (Anthreptes) axillaris*

This very unusual sunbird was recorded in Kibale Forest, Bwindi NP and Mabira Forest.

**Western Violet-backed Sunbird***Anthreptes longuemarei*

A pair was spotted in the broadleaved woodland at our lunch stop between Masindi & Kibale.

**Little Green Sunbird***Anthreptes seimundi*

This small, inconspicuous and drab forest species was seen at the Royal Mile & the “Neck”.

**Grey-chinned (Green) Sunbird***Anthreptes rectirostris*

Our only sighting of this bird was in the forest at the Royal Mile.

*NOTE: This species is sometimes split into two forms, the eastern (including Ugandan) Grey-chinned Sunbird A. tephrolaemus and the nominate western Yellow-chinned Sunbird. This is not accepted by IOC*

**Collared Sunbird***Hedydipna collaris*

This little gem was observed on numerous occasions at most forest sites.

**Green-headed Sunbird***Cyanomitra verticalis*

A good looking species that favours secondary growth and forest edge, it was seen at Kibale NP & Buhoma.

**Blue-throated Brown Sunbird***Cyanomitra cyanolaema*

Kibale NP, forests at Buhoma and Mabira Forest all yielded views of this large sunbird.

**Blue-headed Sunbird \****Cyanomitra alinae*

An Albertine Rift endemic, it was seen on our descent into Mubwindi Swamp at Ruhija.

**(Western) Olive Sunbird***Cyanomitra olivacea*

The forests of the Royal Mile and Buhoma held sightings of this drab species.

*NOTE: The Olive Sunbird species complex has been split into two full species by Clements and some other authorities, namely the nominate Eastern Olive Sunbird C. olivacea and the form which we recorded in Uganda, Western Olive Sunbird. There has been a review of this split and several authorities are in doubt of the validity, which is based upon the presence, or lack thereof, of pectoral tufts in the females of the various forms within the complex. The IOC does not recognise this split.*



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- Green-throated Sunbird** *Chalcomitra rubescens*  
This bird was recorded along the forest trails at Buhoma.
- Scarlet-chested Sunbird** *Chalcomitra senegalensis*  
This gorgeous species was encountered regularly at woodland sites during the tour.
- Purple-breasted Sunbird** *Nectarinia purpureiventris*  
A male bird was seen by some along the forest edge at the higher altitude site of Ruhija.
- Bronzy Sunbird** *Nectarinia kilimensis*  
Another striking species, it was observed almost daily in Bwindi Impenetrable NP.
- Olive-bellied Sunbird** *Cinnyris chloropygius*  
This common forest edge sunbird was seen at lower altitude sites of Kaniyo Pabidi & Kibale Forest.
- Northern Double-collared Sunbird** *Cinnyris reichenowi*  
It was seen repeatedly along the forest edge at Buhoma and Ruhija.
- Regal Sunbird \*** *Cinnyris regius*  
A drop-dead gorgeous Albertine Rift endemic (certainly a highlight of Ruhija!), we admired the bird at every chance we got at Ruhija.
- Beautiful Sunbird** *Cinnyris pulchella*  
This dry-country species was seen in good numbers in and around Murchison Falls NP.
- Marico Sunbird** *Cinnyris mariquensis*  
Lake Mburo NP produced our only sightings of this attractive bird.  
*NOTE: Some authorities split this complex into 2 full species. C. m. suahelica, which we recorded in Uganda would become Swahili Sunbird as opposed to the nominate form which would remain as Marico Sunbird. IOC and Clements do not as yet recognize this split.*
- Red-chested Sunbird** *Cinnyris erythrocerus*  
First seen at our accommodation in Entebbe, it was later commonly seen at QENP.
- Purple-banded Sunbird** *Cinnyris bifasciatus*  
Just 1 male bird was found in the woodland of Lake Mburo NP.
- Orange-tufted Sunbird** *Cinnyris bouvieri*  
A pair was recorded in some scrubby habitat not far from the town of Masindi.
- Superb Sunbird** *Cinnyris superbus*  
We were treated to great views of a pair at our lodge in Kibale NP!
- Variable Sunbird** *Cinnyris venustus*  
This was seen at Ruhija and near Buhoma.
- Copper Sunbird** *Cinnyris cupreus*  
Peak numbers of 5 birds were seen on our travel day between Masindi and Kibale NP.

### Old World Sparrows Passeridae

- Chestnut-crowned Sparrow-Weaver** *Plocepasser superciliosus*  
We saw this species at Murchison Fall and on the Butiaba Escarpment.
- House Sparrow** *Passer domesticus*  
We recorded this species in the south of the country in a small town near Lake Mburo. Unfortunately, this represents a small population that is becoming established.
- Kenya (Rufous) Sparrow** *Passer rufocinctus*  
We observed a number of birds on the north bank of the Nile in Murchison Falls NP.  
*NOTE: Some authorities including Clements split this African sparrow into five species. Shelley's Rufous Sparrow P. shelleyi that we observed occurs largely in Ethiopia, Great Sparrow P. motitensis occurs in Southern Africa, Kenya Rufous Sparrow P. rufocinctus occurs in East Africa, Kordofan Rufous Sparrow P. cordofanicus occurs in Sudan and Socotra Sparrow is endemic to Socotra. IOC however, only accepts Great, Kenya and Socotra Sparrows as full species, and according to their classification the birds we recorded (Shelley's Rufous Sparrow) are treated as Kenya Sparrow.*
- Northern Grey-headed Sparrow** *Passer griseus*



By far the most common sparrow in Uganda, it was seen on most days throughout the tour.

### Weavers & Widowbirds Ploceidae

- Speckle-fronted Weaver** *Sporopipes frontalis*  
This bird was only seen on the north bank of the Nile in Murchison Falls NP.
- Thick-billed (Grosbeak) Weaver** *Amblyospiza albifrons*  
It was recorded at scattered sites with initial sighting along the forest edge at the Royal Mile.
- Baglafaecht Weaver** *Ploceus baglafaecht*  
A common weaver of moister, open habitats, we found several in Bwindi Impenetrable NP.
- Slender-billed Weaver** *Ploceus pelzelni*  
We had excellent views of this tiny weaver on the dinner tables at Mweya Lodge, QENP.
- Little Weaver** *Ploceus luteolus*  
Lake Mburo NP produced a single sighting of this diminutive weaver species.
- Spectacled Weaver** *Ploceus ocularis*  
We found this forest edge/undergrowth species at Luwero Swamp and en route to Kibale NP.
- Black-necked Weaver** *Ploceus nigricollis*  
This attractive forest edge species was seen in suitable habitat during the tour; best views at Buhoma.
- Strange Weaver \*** *Ploceus alienus*  
Some of the group found this often elusive Albertine Rift endemic at Ruhija.
- Black-billed Weaver** *Ploceus melanogaster*  
It was recorded daily in the secondary growth/forest edge at Buhoma.
- African (Holub's) Golden Weaver** *Ploceus xanthops*  
Our best sighting of this species was during our lunch stop at Luwero Swamp.
- Orange Weaver** *Ploceus aurantius*  
A bird that is restricted to the Lake Victoria basin, we observed a nesting colony at Entebbe Wildlife Centre.
- Northern Brown-throated Weaver** *Ploceus castanops*  
As far the afore mentioned species some of the group had good sightings at Entebbe Wildlife Centre.
- Lesser Masked Weaver** *Ploceus ocularis*  
A scarce bird in Uganda, we found a pair in QENP and a few more in Lake Mburo NP.
- Vitelline Masked Weaver** *Ploceus velatus*  
This species was seen in the dry woodland on the Butiaba Escarpment.
- Village Weaver** *Ploceus cucullatus*  
The distinctive *bohndorffi* subspecies was seen regularly during the first week of the tour.  
*NOTE: This widespread African complex is a candidate for multi-species splitting and the subspecies P. c. bohndorffi which we recorded in Uganda will probably remain within the nominate Village Weaver P. cucullatus group. These splits are not as yet recognized by IOC or Clements.*
- Vieillot's Black Weaver** *Ploceus nigerrimus*  
Of the numerous sightings we had, the best were at Buhoma where colonies were at the roadside.  
*NOTE: The distinctive West African form of this weaver is sometimes split off as Chestnut-and-black Weaver P. castaneofuscus.*
- Weyns's Weaver** *Ploceus weynsi*  
We had magnificent scope views of this difficult-to-locate nomadic forest wanderer at Mabira Forest, including a breeding male bird.
- Black-headed (Yellow-backed) Weaver** *Ploceus melanocephalus*  
The national parks of Murchison Falls, Queen Elizabeth & Lake Mburo all produced views of this bird.
- Golden-backed Weaver** *Ploceus jacksoni*  
This scarce weaver was seen at Luwero Swamp.



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<b>Compact Weaver</b>	<i>Pachyphantes superciliosus</i>
Associated with rank grassland, this species was seen near the Royal Mile and in QENP.	
<b>Brown-capped Weaver</b>	<i>Ploceus insignis</i>
This very handsome bird was well seen in the forests at Buhoma and Ruhija.	
<b>Red-headed Malimbe</b>	<i>Malimbus rubricollis</i>
The Royal Mile, Kibale Forest and Bwindi Impenetrable Forest all yielded sightings of this bird.	
<b>Red-headed Weaver</b>	<i>Anaplectes rubriceps</i>
A handful of these birds were seen in the woodland at Lake Mburo NP.	
<b>Cardinal Quelea</b>	<i>Quelea cardinalis</i>
A few birds (including a male in breeding plumage) were seen in grassland of Murchison Falls NP.	
<b>Red-headed Quelea</b>	<i>Quelea erythrops</i>
This species was near Masindi and the Royal Mile.	
<b>Red-billed Quelea</b>	<i>Quelea quelea</i>
Good numbers were observed at Murchison Falls NP.	
<b>Black Bishop</b>	<i>Euplectes gierowii</i>
A number of birds were seen in rank areas, first near the Royal Mile and again near Buhoma.	
<b>Black-winged Red Bishop</b>	<i>Euplectes hordeaceus</i>
Good views were had of this species at Murchison Falls NP.	
<b>Northern Red Bishop</b>	<i>Euplectes franciscanus</i>
Good numbers encountered at Murchison Falls NP with further sighting en route to QENP.	
<b>Yellow Bishop (Yellow-rumped Widow)</b>	<i>Euplectes capensis</i>
A single male bird was spotted shortly after exiting Bwindi Impenetrable Forest en route to Kabale.	
<b>Fan-tailed (Red-shouldered) Widowbird</b>	<i>Euplectes axillaris</i>
This widespread species was found in Murchison Falls NP.	
<b>Yellow-mantled (-shouldered) Widowbird</b>	<i>Euplectes macrourus</i>
The cane fields/rank grasslands near the Royal Mile, in Murchison Falls NP and Murro held this bird.	
<i>NOTE: We also observed a potential split, <b>Yellow-shouldered Widowbird</b>, currently classified as Euplectes macrourus macrocerus (which has a black mantle in place of the yellow, and has yellow shoulders only) near Masindi. This split is not recognised by IOC or Clements.</i>	
<b>Marsh Widowbird</b>	<i>Euplectes hartlaubi</i>
We observed this localised bird (in Uganda) at Luwero Swamp.	
<b>White-winged Widowbird</b>	<i>Euplectes albonotatus</i>
This bird was only seen in the arid scrub en route to the Butiaba Escarpment.	
<b>Red-collared Widowbird</b>	<i>Euplectes ardens</i>
The cane fields/rank grasslands near the Royal Mile and Masindi produced sightings.	

### Waxbills & Allies Estrildidae

<b>White-breasted Nigrita (Negrofinch)</b>	<i>Nigrita fusconotus</i>
Kibale Forest produced our initial views, followed by sightings at Buhoma & Mabira Forest.	
<b>Grey-headed Nigrita (Negrofinch)</b>	<i>Nigrita canicapillus</i>
We had many encounters with this stunner, including a pair nest building at our lodge in Kibale NP.	
<b>Grey-headed Oliveback</b>	<i>Nesocharis capistrata</i>
This gorgeous bird was tracked down in the scrubby fields near the Royal Mile.	
<b>Red-winged Pytilia</b>	<i>Pytilia phoenicoptera</i>
It was observed on a few occasions in Murchison Falls NP.	
<b>Orange-winged Pytilia</b>	<i>Pytilia afra</i>
We were very fortunate to find a family of 3 of these highly localised birds near Murchison Falls NP.	
<b>Green-winged Pytilia</b>	<i>Pytilia melba</i>



The only sighting of this widespread African bird was in QENP.

**Red-headed Bluebill** *Spermophaga ruficapilla*

Another fabulous species, we enjoyed views of a pair near Bigodi Swamp, Kibale NP.

**Brown Twinspot** *Clytospiza monteiri*

This bird was seen in the scrubby fields on our approach to the Royal Mile and in Murchison Falls NP.

**Dusky Twinspot** *Euschistospiza cinereovinacea*

A gorgeous species, we had a couple good sightings en route to Ruhija from Buhoma.

**Black-bellied Firefinch** *Lagonosticta rara*

A few of these striking birds were found in scrubby habitat near the Royal Mile and Masindi.

**Red-billed Firefinch** *Lagonosticta senegala*

Uganda's most common firefinch, it was recorded fairly regularly, with maximum numbers in QENP.

**African (Blue-billed) Firefinch** *Lagonosticta rubricata*

This widespread African bird was found in drier habitat at Murro and Lake Mburo NP.

**Red-cheeked Cordonbleu** *Uraeginthus bengalus*

First seen at Luwero Swamp, it was later recorded in Murchison Falls and Lake Mburo NP's.

**Yellow-bellied Waxbill** *Estrilda quartinia*

This higher altitude species was seen in the area of Ruhija.

**Fawn-breasted Waxbill** *Estrilda paludicola*

Our only sighting of this species was near the Royal Mile.

*NOTE: The Ethiopian near-endemic E. p. ochrogaster is sometimes recognized as a distinct species, Abyssinian Waxbill.*

**Crimson-rumped Waxbill** *Estrilda rhodopyga*

Some of the group had good views of this little beauty in the scrubby habitat of QENP.

**Black-rumped Waxbill** *Estrilda troglodytes*

It was found on the north bank of the Nile in Murchison Falls NP and en route to the Butiaba Escarpment.

**Common Waxbill** *Estrilda astrild*

One of the most widespread waxbills in Africa, we recorded it in QENP.

**Black-crowned Waxbill** *Estrilda nonnula*

This species was seen near the Royal Mile and later en route to Kibale NP from Masindi.

**Black-headed Waxbill** *Estrilda altricapilla*

Another highland species, we recorded it in the Ruhija area and at Mubwindi Swamp.

**Black-faced Waxbill** *Estrilda erythronotus*

We saw this handsome dry country species outside of Murchison Falls NP and at Lake Mburo NP.

**Black-chinned (Red-billed) Quail-Finch** *Ortygospiza gabonensis*

A female bird was seen in QENP and a flock of 8 birds (incl. males) was recorded drinking at a waterhole by the roadside in the Ishasha sector.

**Bronze Mannikin** *Lonchura cucullata*

This common bird was regularly recorded in moister habitats throughout Uganda.

**Black-and-white Mannikin** *Lonchura bicolor*

Not as common as the aforementioned species, however we had multiple sightings in forest habitat.

### Indigobirds, Whydahs, Viduidae

**Village Indigobird** *Vidua chalybeata*

We encountered this brood parasite at Luwero Swamp, near the Royal Mile and en route to Kibale.

**Pin-tailed Whydah** *Vidua macroura*

Good numbers of this aggressive little vagabond were seen during the first half of the tour.



### Wagtails & Pipits Motacillidae

#### **Cape Wagtail**

*Motacilla capensis*

It was seen daily in the Ruhija area and again en route to Kabale.

#### **Mountain Wagtail**

*Motacilla clara*

A pair was seen at a fast-flowing mountain stream near the “Neck” in Bwindi Impenetrable NP.

#### **African Pied Wagtail**

*Motacilla aguimp*

Extremely common in Uganda, we observed this bird almost daily.

#### **Yellow-throated Longclaw**

*Macronyx croceus*

A meadow lark look-alike, it was seen at Luwero Swamp, near Masindi, Murchison Falls, Queen Elizabeth and Lake Mburo NP's.

#### **African Pipit**

*Anthus cinnamomeus*

QENP and Lake Mburo produced sightings of this widespread pipit.

*NOTE: African pipit taxonomy is in rather a disarray and much further research is required in the phylogeny of this grouping. Several forms which are considered subspecies are likely to become full species in their own rights and several new forms are surely still to be described. The identification of two new species of pipits from an urban hockey field in Kimberley, South Africa, provides an excellent illustration regarding how little is known about African pipits and how little attention has been paid to them.*

#### **Long-billed Pipit**

*Anthus similis*

We had great views of this bird in the rocky hillsides not far from the town of Kabale.

#### **Plain-backed Pipit**

*Anthus leucophrys*

It was seen in Murchison Falls and Queen Elizabeth NP's.

*NOTE: A. l. goodsoni of central and SW Kenya may be split off from the nominate group A. leucophrys. The Ugandan races we recorded would probably remain within the nominate complex. Clements does not recognise this split.*

### Finches Fringillidae

#### **Yellow-crowned Canary**

*Serinus flavivertex*

We found this highland species near the “Neck” en route to Ruhija.

*NOTE: This species complex has been split into two, the nominate southern group would remain as Cape Canary Serinus canicollis and the form which we recorded in Uganda becomes Yellow-crowned Canary S. flavivertex. IOC and Clements both recognize this split.*

#### **Western Citril**

*Crithagra frontalis*

The exact same site as the above species is where we found this bird.

*NOTE: This complex is now split into three distinct species, the eastern Southern Citril C. hyposticta, the western Western Citril C. frontalis (which is the form occurring in Uganda) and the nominate African Citril C. citrinelloides. IOC and Clements does recognize these splits.*

#### **White-rumped Seedeater**

*Crithagra leucopygia*

Excellent views were had of this scarce species outside of Murchison Falls NP en route to the Butiaba Escarpment.

#### **Yellow-fronted Canary**

*Crithagra mozambica*

It was regularly encountered at scattered sites during the first 10 days of the trip.

#### **Brimstone (Bully) Canary**

*Crithagra sulphurata*

Our best views of this large, stocky canary were en route from Masindi to Kibale NP.

#### **Streaky Seedeater**

*Crithagra striolata*

We got multiple views of this highland forest edge species while at Ruhija.

#### **Thick-billed Seedeater**

*Crithagra burtoni*

Bwindi Impenetrable NP yielded numerous views of this higher altitude forest species.

*NOTE: The Tanzanian endemic S. b. melanochrous is sometimes split off a Kipengere Seed-eater.*

### Buntings Emberizidae



**Cinnamon-breasted Bunting***Emberiza tahapisi*

A single bird was recorded on the Butiaba Escarpment.

**Golden-breasted Bunting***Emberiza flaviventris*

This gorgeous looking species was observed throughout with the initial sighting at Masindi Ranches.

**Cabanis's Bunting***Emberiza cabanisi*

We had decent scope views of this bird in the scrubby fields not far from the Royal Mile.

## Annotated List of Mammal Species recorded

Taxonomy and nomenclature follows 'The Kingdon Field Guide to African Mammals' by Jonathan Kingdon, Academic Press, 1997.

### Total species recorded: 44

#### Apes Hominidae

**Chimpanzee***Pan troglodytes*

We enjoyed good scope views of this impressive creature at the Royal Mile and later had an incredible close encounter during an early morning bird walk in Kibale Forest.

**(Mountain) Gorilla***Gorilla gorilla beringei*

Trekking for these marvellous primates is undoubtedly one of the greatest wildlife experiences on earth. A group was observed at close quarters in the Ruhija area of Bwindi Impenetrable Forest giving fabulous looks and great insight into family life.

#### Colobid Monkeys Colobidae

**Central African Red Colobus***Piliocolobus oustaleti*

Several of these leaf-eating monkeys were seen at Bigodi Swamp near Kibale Forest NP.

**Guereza (Black-and-white) Colobus***Colobus guereza*

One of the most attractive colobids, it was found at most forested sites during the tour with great views at Kibale NP.

#### Cheek-Pouch Monkeys Cercopithecidae

**Olive (Anubis) Baboon***Papio anubis*

This woolly-haired beast was seen in large numbers in woodland and forest edge, with our initial sighting en route to Kaniyo Pabidi near Murchison Falls NP.

**Grey-cheeked Mangabey***Lophocebus albigena*

Mabira Forest produced some views of this "evil-looking" monkey.

**Vervet Monkey***Cercopithecus pygerythrus*

Seen at several sites on the trip, we had good numbers during our stay at Lake Mburo NP.

**L'Hoest's Monkey***Cercopithecus lhoesti*

First seen at Kibale Forest, it was later recorded daily in Bwindi Impenetrable NP. This is one of the more attractive species to be seen in Uganda.

**Blue (Gentle) Monkey***Cercopithecus mitis stuhlmanni*

Budongo Forest and Bwindi Impenetrable NP yielded numerous views of this species.

**Red-tailed Monkey***Cercopithecus ascanius*

This stunning little monkey was observed at a number of forest patches throughout the tour.



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### Lorisids Loridae

**Demidoff's Galago***Galago demidoff*

During a night drive at Kibale Forest we spotted a couple of these small prosimians.

### Flying –Foxes Pteropidae

**Straw-coloured Fruit Bat***Eidolon helvum*

Huge numbers of these large prehistoric-looking creatures were seen in the early evening at Jinja.

### Large-Winged Bats Megadermatidae

**Yellow-winged Bat***Lavia frons*

This good looking animal was found in Murchison Falls, Queen Elizabeth and Lake Mburo NP's.

### Rats and Mice Cricetidae and Muridae

**Striped (Grass) Mouse***Rhabdomys pumilio*

We spotted a couple of these cute rodents in QENP.

### Hares & Rabbits Leporidae

**Uganda Grass-Hare (Bunyoro Rabbit)***Poelagus marjorita*

Murchison Falls NP produced several sightings of this species.

### Squirrels Sciuridae

**Striped Ground Squirrel***Xerus erythropus*

We recorded these creatures en route to Masindi and in the Kibale area.

**Fire-footed Rope Squirrel***Funisciurus pyrropus*

1 of these richly-coloured squirrels was found in Bwindi Impenetrable NP.

**Carruther's Mountain Squirrel***Funisciurus carruthersi*

Several individuals were recorded in the Ruhija area of Bwindi Impenetrable NP.

**Boehm's Squirrel***Paraxerus boehmi*

This diminutive creature was observed daily in Bwindi Impenetrable Forest & later at Mabira Forest.

**Red-legged Sun Squirrel***Heliosciurus rufobrachium*

Another forest species, it was seen at Kibale, Bwindi Impenetrable NP and Mabira Forest.

### Mongoose Herpestidae

**Slender Mongoose***Herpestes sanguinea*

A widespread African mongoose, it was seen en route to Masindi and Jinja & in Murchison Falls NP.

**Dwarf Mongoose***Helogale parvula*

This delightful little mongoose was well seen in Lake Mburo NP.

**Banded Mongoose***Mungos mungo*

We recorded this social mongoose species daily in QENP including sightings around our lodge here.

### Cats Felidae

**Leopard***Panthera pardus*

We had 2 sightings of this beautiful cat during the trip, namely at Murchison Falls NP and QENP.

**Lion***Panthera leo*

After much searching we found a pride draped over the limbs of a massive Fig Tree in the Ishasha sector of QENP.

### Hyraxes Procavidae

#### **Western Tree Hyrax**

*Dendrohyrax dorsalis*

A single animal was found at the entrance to its tree cavity along the Royal Mile.

### Elephants Elephantidae

#### **African Elephant**

*Loxodonta africana*

First seen in Murchison Falls NP, they were later observed in good numbers in QENP.

### Horses Equidae

#### **Common (Burchell's) Zebra**

*Equus quagga*

This species is restricted to the southern savannas, and as a result is only found at Lake Mburo NP in Uganda where we had good numbers.

### Hippopotamuses Hippopotamidae

#### **Hippopotamus**

*Hippopotamus amphibius*

Large numbers were seen during our boat cruise on the Victoria Nile in Murchison Falls NP, followed by sightings on the Kazinga Channel in QENP and at Lake Mburo.

### Pigs Suidae

#### **Bush Pig**

*Potamochoerus larvatus*

A family group was seen briefly at dusk near our lodgings at Lake Mburo NP.

#### **Giant Forest Hog**

*Hylochoerus meinertzhageni*

These monstrous hogs were seen well in the dense woodland of QENP; a total of 13 were recorded.

#### **Common Warthog**

*Phacochoerus africanus*

The savanna/open woodland of Lake Mburo, Queen Elizabeth and Murchison Falls NP's held views of this widespread African pig.

### Giraffes Giraffidae

#### **Giraffe**

*Giraffa camelopardalis*

Our only sightings were on the north bank of the Nile River while in Murchison Falls NP where we recorded the distinctive Rothschild's form.

### Bovids & Horned Ungulates

#### **African Buffalo**

*Syncerus caffer*

Peak numbers of 200+ were recorded in Queen Elizabeth NP.

#### **Bushbuck**

*Tragelaphus scriptus*

Lake Mburo, Queen Elizabeth and Murchison Falls NP's all produced sightings of this species.

#### **Bush (Common/Grey) Duiker**

*Sylvicapra grimmia*

This species was spotted in the woodland of Kafu Ranches.

#### **Black-fronted Duiker**

*Cephalophus nigrifrons*

The forest at Buhoma held glimpses of this elusive antelope.

#### **Yellow-backed Duiker**

*Cephalophus silvicultor*

Some of the group were fortunate to spot this, the largest duiker species in the world.



**Oribi***Ourebia ourebi*

Good numbers were seen in the grasslands north of the Nile in Murchison Falls NP and a handful at Lake Mburo NP. This is a threatened species elsewhere in Africa.

**Uganda Kob***Kobus kob thomasi*

This handsome, water dependant species was observed in large numbers in QENP on the Kasenyi Track, with the initial sightings on the north bank of the Nile in Murchison Falls NP.

**Defassa Waterbuck***Kobus ellipsiprymnus defassa*

We saw this large antelope in Murchison Falls, Queen Elizabeth and Lake Mburo NP's.

**Impala***Aepyceros melampus*

Lake Mburo NP yielded many sightings of this common and widespread African antelope.

**Topi (Tsessebe)***Damaliscus lunatus*

50+ were seen in the grasslands of Ishasha sector in QENP and viewed daily in Lake Mburo NP.

**Kongoni (Jackson's Hartebeest)***Alcelaphus buselaphus*

The north bank of the Victoria Nile in Murchison Falls NP's held sightings of these sleek animals.

**REPTILES****Marsh Terrapin***Pelomedusa subrufa*

We recorded this terrapin in the Bugungu Game Reserve.

**Great Lakes Bush Viper***Atheris nitschei*

On our way up the steep trails of Mubwindi Swamp forests at Ruhija we sighted this snake.

**Striped Skink***Mabuya striata*

Usually a common reptile, it was seen in Lake Mburo National Park.

**Red-headed Rock Agama***Agama agama*

An attractive creature, it was observed in the Masindi area, Murchison Falls NP and Kibale Forest.

**Blue-headed Tree Agama***Acanthocercus atricollis*

Kibale Forest and Ruhija yielded views of this species.

**Nile/Water Monitor (Leguaan)***Varanus niloticus*

During our boat cruise on the Kazinga Channel we spotted this aquatic inhabitant.

**Nile Crocodile***Crocodylus niloticus*

Murchison Falls, Queen Elizabeth and Lake Mburo NP's all held sightings of this ancient beast.

**Photo credits:** Shoebill by Cuan Rush; Blue-breasted Kingfisher by Keith Valentine; Red-throated Bee-eater by Cuan Rush; Red-headed Lovebird by Keith Valentine; Giant Forest Hog and Archer's Ground Robin by Cuan Rush; Mountain Gorilla and African Finfoot by Rick Miller and Weyns's Weaver by Keith Valentine.

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